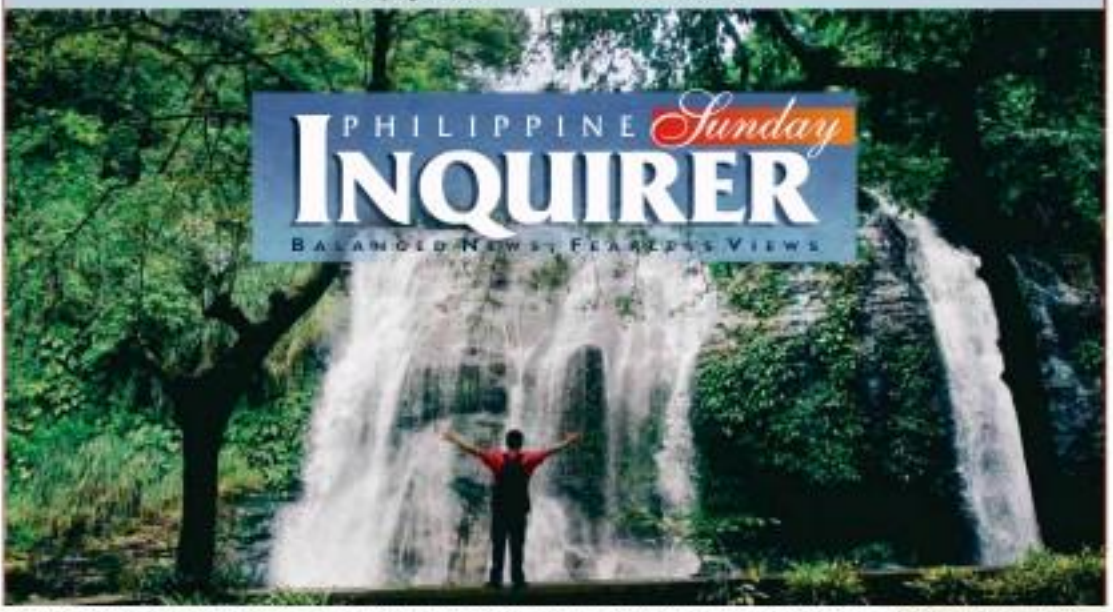
Sunday, August 23, 2009 ** Vol. 24 / No. 256



THE MINUCUIANG TALTAK hopes to reclaim its title as the main attraction of Antipolo City as it undergoes a rehabilitation and cleanup drive through the efforts of the local government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and an environmental group represented by former basketball star Vince Hizon. This once pristine waterfall has lost its luster due to pollution caused by the dumping of wastes from the city. [CONTINUED IN A-17]

Mar: No turning back

But Noynoy surge in LP puts Roxas in awkward place

By Christine O. Avendaño and Pia Zamora

THE OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT OVER THE death of former President Corazon Aquino and the consequent clamor for her son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, to run for higher office may have added luster to the Liberal Party.

But it has placed Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas, until Cory's death early this month the acknowledged presidential standard-bearer of the LP, in a somewhat awkward position.

While Roxas has to protect his frontrunner status in the party's presidential ticket, he cannot do so too strongly so as to alienate the pro-Aquino forces in the LP who, if truth be told, would prefer Noynoy to be the party's standard-bearer.

Typically, Roxas yesterday said he was as determined as ever to run for President in 2010. But in the next breath he said he would submit himself to the party's selection process governing the choice of the party standard-bearer.

"There is no turning back for me. I want to make big changes in our country and the presidency is the only vantage point at which that can be done."

[MAR, PG 2]

3 men of God running; 'GMA must be so bad'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO "must be really so bad" that three "men of God" have thought it necessary to join the race for Malacañang in order to put the country to rights.

At least this is how another so-called man of God, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, sees it.

"These are very interesting times because since I was born, this is the first occasion ever when no less than three religious men are aspiring for the presidency," said the 74-year-old prelate, an indefatigable and outspoken critic of Ms Arroyo and her administration.

Three months before aspirants for the presidency in the May 2010 elections have to formally declare their candidacy, about a dozen personalities, politicians or otherwise, have already

[MEN OF GOD, A-3]

Skating through the rails in Tagkawayan

By Ross Harper Alonso
Contributor

IN TAGKAWAYAN, A SECOND-CLASS municipality in Quezon province, "skates" are the king of the railroad tracks.

Skates or improvised wooden trolleys that run on foot power or a simple engine, zip back and forth along the tracks transporting passengers, produce and livestock. They are the only form of transportation connecting Tagkawayan's 45 barangays.

Real trains used to pass Tagkawayan, located some 270 kilometers from Manila, until the Philippine National Railways (PNR) ended its service between Metro Manila and the Bicol region in 2007.

Many former blue and red skates parked under trees and makeshift garages. They all look alike as they were designed and built by one family in Tagkawayan.

Basic skates cost P12,000. If you

[SKATING, B-11]

ROLLING ON THE RAILWAYS "Skates" or improvised wooden trolleys roll along the tracks transporting passengers between Tagkawayan's 45 barangays. [ALSO ON PAGE A-2]

RP, Maldives share common vulnerability to climate change

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT FILipino hands helped rebuild Vilufushi Island in the Maldives that was devastated by a deadly tsunami a day after Christmas in 2004.

But forward to last month. Again, Filipinos and a United Nations delegation led by Sen. Loren Legarda were in the Maldives to advocate programs for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The delegation's choice to be in the Maldives is significant. Based on a UN study, seas are likely to rise 59 cen-

[MALDIVES, A-6]

Asia's Titanic: Docu recalls sea tragedy

By Ernnie G. Velarde
Entertainment Editor

SALVADOR RACHAL AND HIS DAUGHter Aladin miraculously survived by jumping into a floating and flash-in-the-pan sea when the passenger ferry Doña Paz sank off Mindoro in December 1987.

The ferry, sailing out of Tacloban, Leyte, bound for Manila, collided with the Vector, an oil tanker whose cargo of 8,800 barrels of petroleum products ignited on impact and quickly spread around the ferry.

An estimated 4,000 people perished on that calm and cloudless night five days before Christmas, in what has been described as the world's worst peacetime sea tragedy.

Aladin was 14 at the time. He sustained severe burns that left his blind in the right eye.

Almarin Baleros, Morris Apura and Generoso Rotaila were sleeping on the top deck, finding no space anywhere in the overcrowded vessel. The three have remained close friends to this day, bound together by

[ASIA'S TITANIC, A-3]

Running across America: Fractured but not broken

By Joy Rojas
Contributor

(A stress fracture in the hip may have sidelined the author temporarily from her run across America, the adventure of a lifetime. But it has not crushed the Filipina spirit in her.)

IT WAS ON MILE 16 OF A 22-MILE RUN on the historic Route 66 in St. Louis, Missouri, where I got a call that would change the course of my dream to cross America from west to east on foot.

Running on a slanted shoulder on a Kansas highway, I felt what I thought was a pulled muscle in my left thigh. The excruciating pain moved to my groin and then my pelvis.

After treatment from two chiropractors, a cortisone shot from a sports medicine doctor and with the help of anti-inflammatory medication, I felt better enough to run across Missouri.

I would have gone on to Illinois had the two guys traveling with me—my runner Mat Marsden and photographer Danny Titus—not prevailed upon me to see a doctor in Danny's hometown of St. Louis.

There, at the Washington University Orthopedics, Dr. Heidi Prather had me perform a series of movements—heading forward to touch my toes, raising my knees to chest level—before ordering an MRI of my hip. The next day, she called.

"It's a stress fracture," she said. "I'm sorry that's not what you want to hear."

[RUNNING, A-6]

WHAT'S INSIDE

How Jinkee knocks out Manny • Farewell to gorgeous young Ken Binay • Defining the D word or the lack thereof **/ LIFESTYLE**

Book of 75 stories recall people whose lives were transformed by the power of Sweepstakes **/ SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE**

RP Miss Universe candidate lost 30 lb to get the chance to bring home the crown first worn by Gloria Diaz in 1969 and last by Margie Moran in 1973. Will she make it? Watch it tomorrow on ABS-CBN **/ ENTERTAINMENT**

SVD marks 100 years • Senate to probe presence of US troops in Mindanao **/ NEWS**

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Palace: No combat for US troops

Miriam to seek Senate probe of Americans' continued stay in RP

By TJ Burgonio and Christine D. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY CONFIRMED THE EXTENSION of the tour of duty of 600 American soldiers in Mindanao but allayed fears that the foreign troops would engage in combat.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said the government would not allow the US forces, known as the Joint Special Operation Task Force-Philippines, to engage in combat operations against terrorists.

"That is part of ongoing defense cooperation between our country and the United States," said Bermudez over 66 radio, citing the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Armed fighting by foreign troops on Philippine soil, however, is prohibited by the Constitution.

Earlier, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the decision to keep the force in Mindanao, citing the key role it played in the successes of the Philippine Armed Forces against al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf rebels and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Since 2002, the US force has trained local troops and provided logistical and intelligence support to Philippine forces.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said yesterday she was "troubled" by the bid of the US to remain in troops here. She said American forces were only supposed to stay here temporarily in accordance with the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

She also said she was concerned the continued stay of the US elite force would create for the Philippines a "culture of military dependency" on the Americans.

Santiago said she would push through with her plan for the Senate, as foreign relations committee to review the JSA before Congress takes a break in October.

Interviewed over dwiE radio, Santiago agreed that the presence of US officials to remain in Central here was in violation of the 1987 Constitution, but she said she was "very concerned" because the US troops have been in the country for nearly 14 years—therefore, they were more than just "visiting forces."

"It would seem that American soldiers, even if they're trained, are permanently based here," said the Senator.

On the "return of military dependency," Santiago said, "So if when we have a problem in certain parts of the country, we will allow a foreign country to come here and stay here for 10 years." The concern needs to resolve its own problems, she added.

In the forthcoming Senate inquiry, Santiago said she will ask those who are against the VFA what alternatives they can propose.

At Sir Gates hailing the VFA, Santiago said she will ask why until now, after almost 10 years, the military still needs training from the Americans. She said this must be explained to the Constitution that bans military bases in the country.

The US embassy in Manila yesterday assured that the stay of American troops in the Philippines would be temporary.

Embassy spokesperson Rebecca Thompson said the deployment of the US military to help in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations was "at the invitation of the Philippine government."

"US forces are on temporary deployment to support and share information with the AFP under the terms of the MVA," Thompson added in a text message to this reporter.

On Friday, the Pentagon announced it was keeping its 600-soldier counter-insurgency operation deployed in the Philippines despite pressure to assign to anywhere else where, such as Afghanistan or Iraq, because its mission was not yet over.

RP Ambassador Divina Kilbertus Ashai stressed that the US troops were **not playing a "support role" and it** was the AFP doing the fighting.

"Their assigned mission is to train, advise, and assist the AFP and do civic action and humanitarian missions," Ashai told the Inquirer in a text message.

He said that the US forces were the US presence in conflict areas like Sulu and Basilan was "very much appreciated." He added that the government and majority of these conflict areas preferred the US military presence here.

Aside from providing technical **assistance and intelligence to Fil**ipino soldiers, US forces have been conducting community development projects in conflict areas.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Lt. Col. Bernie Briones Jr. said the US has already spent $15 million for projects in Jolo, Sulu alone, among them the construction of roads, school buildings and health centers.

Briones also said the American troops actually numbered less than 600, as was reported in the New York Times.

"They're definitely not 600. It only runs to that number when troops are here for training exercises. But when there's none, they don't reach 600," said Briones.

"We are very thankful for the assistance but when the time comes that their services are needed elsewhere, it doesn't mean that our operations will be crippled or come to a stop," Briones said. *With reports by Cynthia S. Rodarra, Sierra Quisumbing, Lelia Zalsos-Cruz and Nikko Dizon*

AFP feeding program goes on

TIPO-TIPO, BASILAN— THE LOSS OF 23 soldiers during a major battle with the Abu Sayyaf here last week did not stop the military from launching a feeding program on Thursday.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said it was the first ever community kitchen started by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in any conflict area in Mindanao.

"It's the first time the Western Mindanao Command introduced the community kitchen here and it's a learning curve for us," Teodoro said.

The community kitchen, he explained, was different from other feeding programs because it was aimed at children, the elderly and those fasting during Ramadan.

"Children are fed three times a day including the elderly while those observing Ramadan are provided with food twice a day—at dawn and at the break of fast," Teodoro said.

Among those who scooped in the feeding centers on Thursday was 8-year-old Mikilah Hapilon (not related to Abu Sayyaf leader Jainlen Hapilon), who is suffering from a serious skin disease that has affected her entire body.

The slight of boiled eggs, instant noodles, sautéed vegetables, sardines and seasoned rice made her forget the discomfort of her itchy skin.

Her aunt, Nina Alling, told the Inquirer that it was Hapilon's first shower meal in days since fleeing their village of Kilangkiran on Aug. 12.

Zenaida Arevalo, assistant social welfare officer for Western Mindanao, said more than 3,00 children resided there. Arevalo said the feeding program initiated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the military.

"Social workers, community workers and barangay officials prepared the food," she said, adding that the soldiers just distributed them.

Arevalo said the food would be enough for two weeks. She said Teodoro had promised to send more victims the week.

"We want to show (the people of Basilan) that we are not merely after the Abu Sayyaf, we are also concerned about the welfare of the people," Teodoro said. **Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao**

Joma calls off peace talks after gov't fails to free rebs

By Nikko Dizon

ANGERED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT's supposed failure to comply with agreed upon conditions, exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria (Joma) Sison ruled out peace talks this month to end the country's 40-year-old communist insurgency.

Sison said the Philippine government failed to comply with its June 15 commitment to release consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) from prison or withdraw warrants of arrest against others by the end of July.

"The GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) has not complied with the Joint Cease Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees) and has not removed the impediments it has imposed on the 14 NDFP consultants who are detained or who are subjects of warrants of arrest on the basis trumped-up criminal charges," the Netherlands-based Sison said in an e-mail to the Inquirer.

Peace talks to end the communist insurgency one of the longest in Asia, have repeatedly stalled for various reasons.

Sison said it had been more than a month since the Philippine government announced that it would comply with the June.

"Because of the deliberate and systematic failure of the GRP to comprise the irreparable agreement the concerned NDFP consultants, the resumption of formal talks cannot be held in August and probably you cannot be held in the remaining months of the Arroyo regime, unless a preliminary meeting is held to remove the aforesaid impediments before the formal talks," Sison said.

He said the NDFP intended to ask the government for a preparatory meeting with their respective lawyers in the first week of September. The request will be conveyed through the Norwegian government, which is facilitating the peace talks.

The meeting is aimed at producing a "written agreement that reaffirms the June and stipulates the methods for complying with it," he said.

INDOOR POOL

Homeowner Fanny Pineda tries to stop his furniture from being swept away by rising floodwaters in Barangay Salapan, San Juan City. The main roads in Manila, Quezon City and Makati were impassable because of knee-deep floods spawned by heavy rains on Saturday night. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said the floods were caused by clogged canals.

'GMA shares Cory advocacy'

By TJ Burgonio

HDN. BENIGNO "NOYNOY" AQUINO III may not agree that President Macapagal-Arroyo shares his mother's advocacy for good governance.

"I would like to assure Noynoy that her excellency, President Macapagal-Arroyo, is one with his mother in advocating democracy and good governance," said Press Secretary Cerge Remonde yesterday in a radio interview aired on dzBB.

Remonde earlier said that reconciliation between the President and the Aquino family would not be difficult because she shared with them an "adherence to the ideals of democracy, good governance, public service and preference for the poor."

Aquino had remarked Friday that it would have been "more fitting" if Mr. Arroyo emulated his mother's practice of good governance instead of offering to build a monument in her honor at EDSA Shrine.

The remarks made the remarks during ceremonies marking the 26th death anniversary on Friday of his father, the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

NOYNOY AQUINO

The President ordered the National Historical Institute on the eve of the commemoration of the late senator's assassination to build a monument to the late President Corazon Aquino, her latest gesture of goodwill to the Aquino family with whom she had a falling out in the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal in 2005.

Remonde said he was disheartened to hear the younger Aquino say that his mother had stood in readiness for Mr. Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election, and that he had made a mistake in voting for her then.

"We're very sad to hear that kind of commentary from the good Sen. Noynoy Aquino. We can assure him that at the end of the term of the President, those who voted for her in 2004 will not regret their choice," he said.

Mahwinning author called the young Aquino a "statesman" for attending Mr. Arroyo during a quick presidential visit to his mother's tomb at the Manila Cathedral hours before her funeral on Aug. 5.

Former President Aquino died on Aug. 1 after battling colon cancer. She was buried next to her husband at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City on Aug. 5.

Cory exhibit opens at St. Scho

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE IN MANILA opened an exhibit of memorabilia of former President Corazon Aquino on Friday coinciding with the commemoration of the 30th death anniversary of her husband, former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

The three-week display is a section of the St. Scholastica's Archives-Museum on 97 Doroteo Street. Formerly Vito Cruz corner Leon Guinto Street, a short walk from the campus where the former president attended grade school.

The exhibit is open to the public for free until Aug. 26.

Among the memorabilia are Aquino's paintings, clothes she wore during her presidency, books, a headband that a supporter wore during the Edsa People Power Revolution, and bags, yellow cases and hats with her paintings on them.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and Aquino's sister, Milagros Cojuangco-Jalandoni, who represented the family.

Lim later announced that the Landmarque Bridge in Sta. Ana will be renamed after Aquino. He also said a 10-story public hospital being constructed site in Sta. Ana will be named in honor of Aquino.

"This is the least we can do to show our gratitude to President Aquino for the selfless dedication she gave to our country," he said.

Sister Mary Jolly Mojarrosa, head of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, said the focus on exhibit were gifts given by Aquino to friends.

"They just lent [items] to the museum for the weeklong exhibit," she said.

Among the paintings on display is one titled "5 Boats and Coconut," which Aquino gave Fr. Catalino Arevalo her spiritual adviser.

During the Requiem Mass for Aquino at the Manila Cathedral on Aug. 5, Arevalo said Aquino had explained that the seven crosses represented the seven years and seven months that her husband was imprisoned, and the seven rosy octagons that she kneed in penitence.

Arevalo also told Aquino had written him: "Corazon and yours unite my life more meaningful. I cannot complain."

Elmo G. Sonico

Cops watching Makati condos for ex-Abra gov

By Tarra Quismundo and Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

POLICE ARE MONITORING TWO condominium units in Makati City in effort to effect the arrest of former Abra Gov. Vicente Valera who is wanted for the 2006 slaying of his political rival, former Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr.

Supt. Medi Romana, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said yesterday surveillance was underway of the condominium units but he refused to identify them.

"We have our targets in Makati but we never confirm surveillance ... Sir received reports of his possible locations but that's all for validation," Romana told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

Romana's task, the CIDG Detective and Special Operations Division, failed to find Valera at three addresses in Quezon City: A house in Tierra Heights, Batasan; another unit on E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan; and a residence at Sauyo Ville Subdivision.

The CIDG team found the first address, believed to be frequented by Valera, had new occupants unrelated to Valera. The other two houses were occupied by relatives who said they did not know Valera's whereabouts.

Last week, the Philippine National Police appealed to Valera to surrender and face charges after a Quezon City court ordered his arrest along with associates Jerry Tanquento and Sgt. Leo Bello.

Witnesses tagged Valera as the mastermind in the murder of Bersamin, who was shot to death outside a church on Dec. 16, 2006.

Bersamin's bodyguard was also killed.

In Bangued, Abra, resident have repeatedly expressed fear the feud between the two political families may reignite after a QC court issued warrants for the arrest of Valera and two others in connection with Bersamin's murder.

According to Msgr. Buenaventura Bersamin, the victim's brother, a bishop has offered to mediate to talks between the two families.

Bersamin said Bishop Leopoldo Jacinto was asked by local officials to broker the talks and the bishop replied he would "only if Valera asked for it."

But Bersamin said Valera must surrender first before any discussion could start.

The governor said he had stopped thinking about Valera dying the past two years.

GOING GREEN
Preparations for the signing by Asian ministers of a Manila declaration to urge industries to adopt sustainable consumption and production practices discussed during the first Seven Regional Environmental Summit are (from left) Manila Mayor Lito Atienda, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Yasuo Takeuchi, Cambodian Environment Minister Mok Mareth, Laos Deputy Minister of Information and Culture Khamphan Simmalavong, Thailand Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Chaiya Sasomsap, Malaysian Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Douglas Uggah Embas, Singapore Minister of State for Environment and Water Resources Lim Swee Say, Indonesian Minister of State for Environment Rachmat Witoelar, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Nguyen Thai Lai and Brunei Minister of Development Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Ibrahim. In photo are, from left, Atienda, Manalo, general manager Jun Rivera, tourism director Cynthia Lara, Undersecretary Ingrid Isorena, Dr. Sarah Chandra Raj, DENR assistant director Jesus Lucero and Libay Polines.

Woman gets 47 years for lying on passport, visa applications

By Tina G. Santos

A MANILA COURT HAS SENTENCED a woman to 47 years in prison for making false statements on her passport application and forging supporting documents in her application for a United States visa.

In a decision dated March 6, 2009, that was promulgated last week, Manila trial court Judge Nina Antonio-Valenzuela found Maria Fe Cruz Aquino, alias Precious Cruz Aquino, guilty of seven counts of violation of Republic Act No. 8293 or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996.

The judge also ordered the accused to pay a fine of P350,000.

The court said the accused made false statements on her passport application under the name of Precious Cruz Aquino, and on those of Alta Blanch Cruz Aquino and Lenore Cohen Cruz Aquino, two children whom she misrepresented as her own.

Aquino, said the court, also forged various documents, including a marriage contract between her and one Juanito Aquino, the birth certificates of the two children, and her driver's license.

Among the prosecution witnesses against Aquino was Ted Archibal, one scared of the Arab Penal Unit of the UK Embassy.

Archibal told the court that a consular officer had asked him to look into documents she submitted to Aquino on Nov. 3, 1997, to support her application for nonimmigrant visas.

Verification made by Archibal showed that the National Statistics Office had no records of the marriage and birth certificates submitted by Aquino to the embassy. Archibal reported the incident to the Interpol Division of the National Bureau of Investigation, which arrested Aquino.

A certification issued by the Land Transportation Office showed that a license under the name Precious Cruz Aquino did not exist in its files.

On the other hand, Aquino denied in court that she had submitted falsified documents. She testified claimed she did not submit our documents at all. Later, she testified that the only documents she submitted were the original copies of her income tax returns, her own passport, and a land title in connection with her business.

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(click "About JICA Philippine Office", then "Training Programme for Young Leaders")

Deadline for Submitting Training Education course and Community-based Health Operation course is at 5:00 pm, Monday, 7 Sept. 2009.
Deadline for the other courses will be at 5:00 pm, Friday, 30 Oct. 2009.

Study abroad will commence in

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Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
[illegible]
Tel. [illegible]

BIR receipt contest nets tax cheats, too

By Doris C. Dumlao

NO SIR HIDING from the taxman.

A total of 13,460 corporate tax cheats have been exposed and penalized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue over the last three years using data from a lottery partnership with publicly listed technology provider Philweb.com Inc.

In a recent report, Philweb said that since the launch in June 2006 of Pinoys on Scratch (POS)—which encourages consumers to demand official receipts when they buy goods and services and submit them to the BIR for a chance to win P1 million—a database had been built based on more than 20 million official receipts issued by over 1.2 million establishments nationwide.

"By comparing the tax identification numbers (TINs), receipt numbers and amounts sent to by 1500 cashiers with the information on the database, the BIR discovers many different kinds of violations," the report said.

These include receipts that are outright false, receipts from cashiers who have registered competitors that are no longer in operation, and receipts from companies that are registered but not issuing receipts outside the authorized areas changing two digits of books), the report said.

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Corrections

IN THE AUG. 16 ISSUE, the "Inner" column of Tonx Prieto-Alidon on Page B2—"Lost in your center: astounding revelation"—misspelled the surname of Pioneer Core Allport's mother. Her name is Wanda Lourenditz—not Lourenditz.

IN THE AUG. 17 ISSUE, an Asianow Bit Notice story on Page A2—"Theft complaint against COA employees"—mistakenly identified the suspect as noted by the National Bureau of Investigation as an employee of the Commission on Audit in Central Luzon. The suspect, Renato Cunlao, is not a COA employee.

IN THE AUG. 21 ISSUE, a front-page caption misstated the date of Aurora Jose Benigno "Nitoy" Aquino Jr.'s funeral. Aquino's funeral was on Aug. 31, 1983—not Aug. 30, 1983.

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Mandaluyong, Makati City; fax 896-6214; or e-mail address dayedesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or ethics may also be sent to the Publisher's e-mail address, publisher@inquirer.com.ph or fax 896-6214. The Publisher's telephone number is 897-1808 local 3310.

SVD marks 100 years in RP; Pope says more missionaries needed

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO, ABRA—THIS TOWN HAS earned a reputation for political violence in recent years, but children here yesterday were busy peddling something that symbolized peace—entrepreneurial tribute about the Societas Verbi Divini (Society of the Divine Word).

The Roman Catholic order is celebrating 100 years of its presence in this town, where the first Divine Word mission was born in 1909.

But the celebrations joined by about 1,000 priests, 20 bishops and the town faithful concluded with a new mission from Pope Benedict XVI: "Spend the next 100 years renewing the faith of modern man."

President Macapagal-Arroyo flew to this town yesterday to participate at the Cathedral of St. Amos the Elder in a ceremonial Mass officiated by the papal nuncio, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, for an SVD hierarchy that had lived time and sanctity packed since Friday.

Adams said he officiated the Mass to deliver the Pope's concern that "although [SVD] has completed a 100-year mission in Abra], there is still need for missionaries."

He said the same people who turned to Catholicism because of SVD evangelization have been seeing inside the Gospel in search to transform concerns.

This is an indication, he said, that modern Filipinos have yet to embrace the lifestyle which the Gospel preaches, and they must be targets of a "renewal of faith" to be administered by SVD missionaries.

Adams said missionaries were fulfilling what many consider to be "an impossible mission."

Fr. Antonio Adviento, an SVD priest based here, said Abra towns provided the foothold for the expansion of SVD, the Philippines' largest religious congregation for men.

St. Arnold Janssen, SVD founder, sent out new missionaries to serve southern Luzon parishes that were abandoned by friars who began to withdraw to the cities at the end of the Spanish era, or by Filipino priests who started joining the Aglipayan Philippine Independent Church's movement, said Adviento.

The ceremonial Mass also highlighted Abra's culture, starting with the blessing of carabao horns and a Tinggulan cultural dance before the Mass.

Adviento said SVD is the second Catholic organization to celebrate its centennial in the Philippines following the Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae (Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or CICM), which developed a Philippine congregation in 1907.

Episcopal Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian said Abra has a long history with Catholicism.

"The first recorded arrival of Spanish missionaries in Bangued [was] the Augustinians as early as 1688. This church building was started in 1722 and was completed in 1833," Jaucian said in a speech he read at the Mass.

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Surveys to decide Senate run—Duque

HEALTH SECRETARY Francisco Duque III is still considering whether to run for the Senate next year, saying it would depend on what the surveys say about his chances.

Duque said he would not bother to run if he does not rank high in the surveys of prominent contenders.

Duque said many people had come up to him encouraging him to run.

"They're telling me it's good to have someone who understands the department of the health sector," he said. "I just say...let's look at the surveys, what my ranking is. If my ranking is low, why disturb? I bother?"

Former Health Secretary Juan Flavier was successful running over him the senatorial ticket in the legislature, serving as a senator for two-to-year terms. He was elected in 1995 and re-elected in 2001.

Jesus Ramilegue

Korean Cultural Festival at the SM Mall of Asia

The 600 officers and misshipmen of the two naval ships, Choi Young and Dai Chung, which docks today at Pier 13 of the South Manila harbor, will hold a Cultural Festival at the SM Mall of Asia on 28 August 2009, Wednesday from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The two-hour Korean Navy Cultural Festival will feature a Taekwondo demonstration, an Honor Guard sound drill, a military band exhibition and a Samulnori, an ensemble of four traditional percussions instruments.

The cultural fest is the culminating event of the four-day goodwill visit of the Republic of Korea Navy Cruise Training Flotilla, spearheaded by Rear Admiral Dong-Hyun Kim. The goodwill visit is part of the year-long celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Korea. The ties between the two nations have evolved from the days where Filipinos helped the Koreans regain their democracy during the Korean War to the dynamic and multilateral relationship that the two nations have now.

The Korean Navy Cultural Festival staged at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia is open to the public.

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College of Law

LAW APTITUDE EXAMINATION (LAE)
for Academic Year 2010-2011

Sunday, November 22, 2009, 7:30 A.M.

Test centers are at U.P. Diliman, U.P. Cebu, U.P. Mindanao (Davao), U.P. Baguio and U.P. Visayas (Iloilo City). Last day of filing is on November 13, 2009 (without fine) and November 20, 2009 (with fine).

Application forms, scholarships, testing fees, and other information are available at the Office of the College Secretary, 1st Floor, Malcolm Hall, U.P. College of Law, Diliman, Quezon City or at http://law.upd.edu.ph.

RP, Maldives share common vulnerability

From page A1

storms by 2100 due to global warming. This puts the Maldives, consisting of a group of atolls, just 1.5 meters above water, in a vulnerable situation. Already, the island country faces problems such as beach erosion and limited shore defenses, so people must learn to leave the islands earlier than 2100.

Legarda and other officials said the Philippines, just like the Maldives, is vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

"Eighty percent of disasters happen in the Asia-Pacific region," said Legarda, who is the UN's champion for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for Asia-Pacific. "The rising sea level will affect all of us."

She said studies showed that a one-meter sea level rise could affect one-third of a country's population. For instance, a one-meter rise of the sea would affect 1,000,000 farmers of the Philippines.

"[The] poorest 20 per cent of the 60 provinces in the country could go under water," Legarda said.

Highway Planner Alfaro Alumno Shumad Shihab said the UN mission that their islands had been affected by climate change as there were more storms and flooding in the last two to three years.

In the Philippines, the effects of climate change were evident in the aftermath of the typhoons, according to Jerry Velasquez, Senior Regional Coordinator of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

In 2009, the country saw hit by three typhoons in the span of 10 days, causing much damage to life and property in Real, Quezon, according to Emmanuel de Guzman, UNISDR consultant.

In 2006, a mudslide buried Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte, after "10 days of unusual rains." Early this year, it rained heavily in Iloilo, there were "so much precipitation in a short period."

Velasquez said, quoting officials from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), that the reason typhoons in the country came from areas like Indonesia.

In the past, the typhoons that hit the country made their way via the Pacific Ocean, he said.

'Shipping center for disaster'

The 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction showed that the Philippines was a "shopping center for disaster," Velasquez said.

It said that typhoons and landslides could hit any part of the country, Bunda were a problem in Metro Manila and Mindanao, while drought could occur in the National Capital Region and in the Visayas.

And while people tend to question how authorities can scientifically prove that these events were effects of climate change, Velasquez said what was important was for all to come up with ways to reduce the risk of disasters.

Ahmed Solih, project manager of a reconstruction project in the Maldives, explained how they were able to rebuild Vilufushi Island, after it was destroyed by a deadly tsunami in 2004.

It had taken five years and the help of overseas Filipino workers to extend Vilufushi island from 35 to 64 hectares and raise it to 2.4 meters above sea level.

Except for Male, the capital of the Maldives, [Vilufushi] is the safest island," Solih said.

The reconstruction work was backed up by environmental risk assessment studies, he said, adding that the island area has "enough room" for 5,000 people.

The reclamation work cost a whopping 17 million rufiya and was made possible with help and funding from the British Red Cross, Germany and Norway.

Segregate garbage

In her visit to Vilufushi, Legarda pushed for the initiative to segregate their garbage and to plant trees that had been wiped out by the tsunami.

There is still much work to be done.

During Legarda's visit, the Maldives had just firmed up an agreement with the UNISDR that will see them coming up with a Strategic National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP).

SNAP will allow the Maldives to come up with a ready response and recovery during disasters but also allow it to prepare, prevent and minimize disasters arising from climate change.

It helps that Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed, who won in the country's first democratic election, is committed to the environment.

A former journalist, Nasheed stunned the world when he announced this year that his country was adopting an economy-wide carbon neutral plan for the next 10 years. Maldives will basically switch to renewable energy.

A report from the British paper the Guardian on March 9 this year reported that Nasheed approached British climate change experts to help develop the radical carbon neutrality plan which called for virtually eliminating fossil fuel use in the Maldives archipelago by 2020.

"The clean electricity would power not only homes and businesses, but also vehicles. Cars and buses with petrol and diesel engines would be gradually replaced by electric versions," according to the British paper.

Two leaders, one cause

In a meeting with Legarda, Nasheed said his country views climate change not only as a human rights issue but as a security issue as well.

He also stressed the need to have people "decently involved" in mitigating and reducing disaster risks.

Since the Maldives had just created its parliament, Legarda offered to give Nasheed copies of the Philippine legislations she authored—the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and the Climate Change Act of 2009.

She also asked Nasheed to join her in a "climate alliance to rethink development" which she espoused during the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland, last month.

In that forum, Legarda called for a new development paradigm that would help save the planet and usher in a safer environment amid the worsening effects of global warming.

Nasheed supported the proposal for a leaders' forum to be held in October in the Maldives where small island nations at risk from climate change would discuss more initiatives.

The leaders' forum will be chaired by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and co-chaired by Legarda.

"We may be small islands and vulnerable but we've loud voices in the global arena," Legarda said.

Local efforts wanting

In the Philippine front, efforts to counter the impact of climate change-induced disasters are still wanting.

Velasquez, senior coordinator of the UNISDR, said the country was reactive-oriented rather than preventive-oriented in dealing with disasters.

Jaid De Guzman, UNISDR consultant: "Since this [unsuccessful, we've been merely responding and reacting" to disasters.

Both Velasquez and De Guzman underscored the need for the country to adapt and invest in a disaster risk reduction strategy as rewards more greater in prevention.

HOT TIMES HAVE CHANGED Deposed president Joseph Estrada visits the hotel of Sen. Manny Aquino Saturday in the Iloilo City of the Sentyo-Sibilyanon Pangkabuhayan Movement (SEP) at the Tiro Hills Elementary School in Project 6, Quezon City. Less than a decade ago, Aquino's mentor, the late President Corazon Aquino, helped depose Estrada for corruption. ARNEL SERRANO

Mar: No turning back

From page A1

Roxas said in a statement.

But in later phone and radio interviews, Roxas explained that what he meant was that the party would name its selection presumptive for the presidential standard-bearer and he would submit to it.

Calls for Noynoy to run for either president or vice president have mounted since his mother's death, and party officials said the selection process has hardly started while they had set Noynoy to mull or go his usual.

Some party officials, like former Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, the LP chair emeritus, have suggested a Roxas-Aquino team-up for 2010.

But there are others equally strong voices clamoring for an Aquino-Roxas pairing.

LP envy of other parties

Yesterday, Franklin Drilon, the executive who is the LP national chair, said that like other party officials, he too was wanting for Noynoy to decide whether to heed those calls.

Drilon said he spoke to Noynoy last week and the senator had told him that he was open to running for higher office.

Drilon acknowledged the heightened expression of the LP that the recent death of Cory Aquino had brought, making the party the envy of other political parties.

Drilon said he was surrounded by the twin commemorations the other day, the 30th anniversary of the Plaza Miranda bombing and the 26th death anniversary of the martyred opposition leader, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., Noynoy's father.

Drilon said: "the affection and support that Noynoy is getting" has buoyed the hopes of the party.

"I really see here well-loved Noynoy is," during the rallies that the LP held Friday to observe the two anniversaries.

It was clear that the people's affection and admiration for Cory had been transferred to Noynoy, Drilon said.

This was again apparent in the reception that Noynoy got yesterday at the Tiro Hills Elementary School in Quezon City where he and deposed President Joseph Estrada were guests at the launching of the "Serbisyo, Edukasyon and Pangkabuhayan Movement" of councilor Joseph Juico.

Sharon Cory, Cory's and Noynoy for President" greeted Noynoy on his arrival. Children and teenagers cuddled him, requesting autographs and photo-ops.

'Tito Noy'

Some of the children called him "Tito Noy," which is how Joshua Aquino, the son of Kris Aquino-Ilog, calls Noynoy.

Estrada acknowledged the changing configuration of the opposition political landscape resulting from the calls for Noynoy to run either for vice president or president.

Estrada greeted Noynoy as "maybe the next Vice President or maybe even the next President" of the country.

Juico quoted Noynoy said the country needs a leader who will truly serve the people, and not to go into politics "for personal enrichment."

Speaking in Filipino, he also said a true leader must have genuine concern for the people, "true compassion to bring back righteousness."

Drilon said he saw "the divine hand of God" at work. "She's campaigning for us," he said.

Indeed, he said the cards has been passed to the children of Ninoy and the late Sen. Cory Ronaes, the most senior LP leaders before the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law and suspended the Constitution in 1972. Mar Roxas is the youngest son of Gerry Roxas, the LP president at the time.

In his statements, Roxas said nothing will come of efforts to erase unique heritage" that Noynoy and others should be the standard bearer in 2010.

"We will always be together through hell and high water," he said.

In a phone interview, he said he and Noynoy have yet to talk about running up.

He said he was thankful for Noynoy's statement the other day that he was supportive of his (Roxas') presidential bid.

'Aquino afterglow'

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said Noynoy would be a strong candidate for vice president because of the "Aquino afterglow" that "will still permeate in 2010."

"Whether you like it or not, Noynoy will be the focus of pro-Aquino sentiments," Santiago told dzBB radio.

"He will be a strong candidate for vice president because of the afterglow or remembrance of sacrifices that were made in the past by his parents," she said.

But Santiago said Noynoy may have a difficult time should he decide to run for President.

For one, there are too many people interested in running for the top post of the land, she said.

Also, Noynoy will have to raise "at least" P3 billion to bankroll his presidential bid, the senator said.

Praying for discernment

Estrada said he would "pray for guidance" on what to do in the event that Noynoy will have said he's not "praying for discernment," decides to throw his hand into the presidential ring.

Running across America

From page A1

My sons inside a fast food chain about for a late lunch, but I seemed to be floating. Dr. Prather talked on but the only things I could make out were "six weeks of no running," "1,500 mg of calcium and 600 IU of vitamin D," and "If you continue in this game, the fracture could extend and you could break your hip."

I was stunned.

Mac, Danny and I sat quietly until I broke the silence. "I'm not quitting," I said, unable to hold back my tears. "We've come this far and I'm going to finish it."

Calls were made to our men's music presenter, Western Union, and Unlimited, the company that oversaw all of Western Union's events. The last 4.6 miles in St. Louis were completed by a leisurely walk that took 1 hour and 30 plus minutes.

Danny suggested we head back to Los Angeles, where I could recuperate among friends. I asked the guys, "When are debriefs, can you please take the freeway?" Clean if we pass the service roads where we run. I'm just going to get sentimental and cry!"

Injury is inevitable

Any runner knows that injury is inevitable.

When I ran across the Sharon region with Fr. Robert Reyes and his team in 1997, my right knee swelled in the point that I couldn't bend my knee for weeks.

Painful tendonitis on my foot forced me to walk 30 kilometers a day for several days when Mac and I ran across the Philippines from Davao City to Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte) in 2005.

Running the 5,000 kilometers (3,106 miles) from Los Angeles to New York would undoubtedly bring about injury so I prepared for it by packing anti-inflammatory patches and pills.

But the extreme heat—in the 100s°F, no less—I didn't see coming. To avoid this, the only injuries I had had were blisters.

A news feature, or a human crash, according to an article on Running Times Magazine, is a feature that doesn't go completely through the finish. First noted in the 19th century among Prussian soldiers who marched for days on end, it is also known as fairly common among high-mileage runners.

When Frank Shorter won the silver medal for the marathon in the 1976 Montreal Olympics, he unknowingly ran with a stress fracture in his foot.

Stress fractures are apparently more vulnerable because running leads to stress on bone, or the repetition of the muscle cycle. This lessens the production of osteogens, the hormone necessary for preventing calcium to strengthen bones.

As devastated as I was, I also knew I was blessed. For one thing, not just a subchondritic fracture, but a stress fracture. Despite the condition, I still managed to cross Kansas and Missouri—two of the longest states in our transcontinental journey—relatively intact.

Steely determination

Call it hard-headedness or determination, but that's the way I've always been. It's what got me to run across the Philippines, after every point of planning it in my head and saving every centavo necessary to make it happen.

It's also what got me to run across America, despite reporters from potential sponsors, disappointment from people, and the biggest hurdle...Mac's open-heart surgery in 2008.

The challenges continued once our task-off from Los Angeles on Mother's Day. There had been internal problems, financial concerns, and difficult decisions to support entirely.

As with all obstacles, we worked around each one and moved forward.

JOY BOUND 22 miles to St. Louis, Missouri, and closer to a lifetime dream. A stress fracture with other foot issues but it certainly will not break her, she promises.

And here we have been moving forward!

Real highlight of America

I thought that watching landscapes, cities, and climates changing right before my eyes was the thrill of this run. Later, I discovered the real highlight of America is its people.

We met the kindest, nicest individuals. Truck drivers handed their beers, voices expressions turned and teenagers came up to us with cold bottles of iced water.

In Pagosa Springs, Colorado, Jojo Dalidio, a Filipino-American sports athlete, followed us on the road and drove to our hotel to cook us a dinner of rib and then that he learned himself.

Sporting us on his way to work, John Terenburg, owner of no less in Missouri, handed us popcorn and three cans of soda on the house, gave a donation to our charity, and handed us in a suite with a license for the rest of a regular room.

The kindness of strangers

The kindness of strangers seemed surreal at first, especially for Mac and I, who only know of America from what we had seen on TV and in films. But it was not so much the sights, or even the adventures—it was what they gave to us.

When Tony Burger and Lucy Pond, pharmacists at an Arizona health center, fixed us dinner and took us in for the night, I could not get over my disbelief. "Tony," I said, "Why did you have total strangers like us to sleep in your place?"

"Because," he said, "I see the purity of your intentions."

Funds for charity

After running across two-thirds of America, I'd like to believe my intentions have remained the same: to reach New York running and to give to our charity, the Social Services Division of the Philippine Heart Center.

Before starting to book, we plan to meet with Filipinos in LA and Las Vegas to tell them our story and to try to raise additional funds for our race and charity.

There's also a book in the works, loaded with pictures, memories and reflections of life on America's service roads and scenic byways.

Crazy!

Sure, I'm scared, and sure it's crossed my mind that this could be a mistake. But I'm also sure I can not quitting.

We are so close—only a third of the country left to cover! If I go home now, and don't give this a chance, not only will I regret it, but I will never get the opportunity to do it again.

Crazy, I know. It's what my friend when I told her what I decided to do.

"No," she said. "That's the Filipino spirit."

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Newsmen dared: Fight for, protect press freedom

By Lira Sagaral-Reyes
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—JOURNALists and news organizations here have challenged "to struggle for and protect press freedom" in the country, during the unveiling here Friday of a monument dedicated to Filipino journalists slain since the 1980s.

Former Sen. Etta Rosales, human rights advocate and martial law fighter, was guest speaker at the unveiling of the Press Freedom Monument at Rizalito de Luna Park.

She urged journalists not to be cowed, silenced or silenced, but instead "transform the monument into a vibrant movement to struggle for and protect press freedom."

"This press freedom monument is a beautiful and artistic symbol of our various freedoms," she said.

"Hopefully, the community of journalists will be able to transform this monument into a press freedom movement," Rosales said.

The Press Freedom Monument, a ribbon consisting of three bronze-cast figures, pays homage to the journalism community and previous heard, who were killed in the line of duty.

The monument was commissioned by the Misamis Oriental government and sculpted by Eduardo Castillo.

The figures represent different aspects of a journalist's job: Photojournalism, radio broadcasting and investigative reporting.

A scroll to the left of the figures holds 182 bronze plates, each containing the name of a journalist killed, his or her news organization, and the date of his or her death.

The names were provided by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), said Ed Montaño, editor of Mindanao Gold star and former president of the Cagayan de Oro Press Club.

Montaño was among those who campaigned for the project along with other community journalists here.

"Let us make sure the killings will stop. Let us do something so the list on the wall stops here. That no more names will be added," he said.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno said the monument was his administration's contribution to press freedom and democracy.

"This is our humble attempt to strengthen our democracy. A democracy needs as many institutions to order to be strengthened and sustained. So, weaken any or all of them and democracy is weakened. And one of those essential institutions is certainly press freedom," he said.

Moreno said the monument in the southwest portion of Rizalito Park fronting the Cagayan de Oro Press Club and a radio station is the first to receive Castillo will be erecting.

It is part of a P27-million heritage project that would transform De Luna Park, which faces the provincial capitol, into a heritage park. The other pieces will be finished by January 2010.

Rosales said the "monument-to-movement" process had already taken place with another Castillo creation: The Barangay ng mga Bayani (Monument of Heroes) along Edsa in Quezon City.

The Barangay was dedicated by the Aquino administration to the heroes and martyrs who fought for human rights during the martial law years.

"The Barangay is no longer just a monument. It is a movement. It is the site of rallies and marches. It is the shadow of the monumental figures, we remember and celebrate our struggles for human rights in the country," Rosales said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 23, 2009
21st Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Joshua convened all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, leaders, judges and storekeepers. And together they presented themselves before God.

Addressing the people, Joshua said to them: "Yahweh, the God of Israel, commands me to say to you: Your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates River. Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor serving other gods.

But if you do not want to serve Yahweh, make known this very day whom you shall serve: whether they be the gods your ancestors served in Mesopotamia or the gods of the Amorites who formerly occupied the land in which you now live. As for me [and my household] will serve Yahweh."

The people answered: "May God not permit that we ever abandon Yahweh to serve other gods! For it is he who brought us and our ancestors out of Egypt, this house of slavery. It was he who did those great wonders before our very eyes; he guarded us all along the way and through all the land where we passed, driving away before us all the nations, especially the Amorites who lived in this land. So we shall also serve Yahweh, for it was he [who] God [Strong]."

Let all kinds of administration to one another become obedience to Christ. Servants as their husbands as to the Lord.

The husband is the head of his wife, as Christ is the head of the Church, the body of which he is the savior. And as the Church submits to Christ, so let wives submit to everything to their husbands.

As for you, husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of water with the word, and thus take her to himself as a glorious Church, without stain or wrinkle or any blemish, but holy and blameless. In himself God to prepare and present her to himself.

In the same way husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. And no one has ever hated his body; he feeds and takes care of it. This is how Christ treats the Church, because we are a part of his body.

Scripture says: Because of this a man shall leave his father and mother to be united with his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a very great mystery, and I refer to Christ and the Church.

Gospel:

After hearing his disciples' many of Jesus' followers said, "This language is very hard! Who can accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were murmuring about this and so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then how will you react when you see the Son of Man ascending to where he came before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh cannot help. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But among you there are some who do not believe."

From the beginning, Jesus knew who would betray him. So he said to them, "As I have told you, no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

After this many disciples withdrew and no longer followed him. Jesus asked the Twelve, "Will you also go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We now believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Commentary:

What are we to make of the Bread of Life discourse? How are we to interpret the claim of Jesus that the flesh is real food and his blood truly is real? Some interpret that saying of Jesus merely as a metaphor for the life-giving Word. Still others believe that when Jesus spoke his Jesus upon hearing these words, never having able to accept the literal interpretation of those words, and never to follow him again.

At this point in the episode and in the whole Church, when the disciples, as one with the Lord, decidedly making his faith on the Lord. Jesus at the Holy Face of God, and upon the words being completely reliable and true, in the heart of my Catholic Faith is the 14th Eucharist, the sacrament through which we encounter the redemptive presence of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Lord. Through the Holy Eucharist we participate Lord and receive the great gift that He gives us, the gift of Him. Indeed, the Holy Face of God which we are privileged to experience this sublime mystery we know one way with Us. Now, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

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OPINION

Failing nation

IT IS QUITE AN IRONY THAT THE UNITED STATES is more forthcoming about the reason for its continuing military presence in Mindanao, than our own government is in telling the Filipino people why it thinks the Americans should be here. Our reason may be that the government has no choice about the American presence in Mindanao—not least because the Americans themselves see that government is a failure.

EDITORIAL We must firstly place yesterday's cover story from The New York Times News Service, in the context of our questions and observations about what's going on in Mindanao. Whether the government has handled the security situation incompetently, particularly in areas where Abu Sayyaf bandits and MILF rebels are active or roving, or whether it has, in sporadic parlance, thrown the game by sidestepping its own peace processes in pursuit of a sinister, partisan political agenda in 2010.

If there was a failure of intelligence and command to execute worthy, it's bad enough. If the attack on the Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan was meant to keep potentially restive units of the armed forces busy, or to provide the pretext for the "union of the armed forces and LGUs" that the President desires going into the 2010 campaign, it's worse, because the administration is toying not only with the lives of civilians and soldiers, Muslims and Christians alike, but with the security of the entire region as well.

The United States obviously thinks it has to remain committed to Mindanao, in particular, Muslim Mindanao, as part of its main priority to keep the sea lanes of the region clear, and to back up the security parameter meant to contain radical movements in the thinly patrolled and barely controlled Borneo-Sulu regions. The Americans have been quoted as saying their mission is twofold: "help the armed forces of the Philippines neutralize high-value targets—individuals who will never change their minds," and "[help] give a better life to the citizens—good governance, better health care, a higher standard of living."

A careful reading of the covert maneuvers by American officials leads to the conclusion that, from their point of view, the Philippine government, and by extension the armed forces it commands, is incapable of maintaining both peace and security in Mindanao.

Essentially, by force of circumstances—the need to survive, which a President (who views leadership in transactional, and not visionary, terms) resolves by means of concessions to allies, foreign and domestic—the administration has given to the Americans a kind of veto power over certain affairs in Mindanao. So long as the Americans keep in government hands what it truly cares about—the ability of seaforth both in and out of governance, to "deliver" votes in the polls and in Congress in the administration requires—it will permit the Americans to try to deliver to the Moros, in particular, what Manila will not, or cannot, deliver: development and security.

This leaves the administration busy trying to farm out forces, even at the expense of the national interest, to other nations, such as China, in order to confine American interference to Mindanao while widening its freedom of action on the national stage: not in terms of actual sovereignty, but rather, in pursuit of political and functional flexibility.

It would be a mistake to think that the warlord allies of the administration, particularly in Muslim Mindanao, are a unique species, politically: the new center of Lobo Kiram's leaders include notorious warlords from the Ilocos to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). What can seriously believe that the ongoing campaign of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police to confiscate unlicensed firearms will ever be enforced against prominent administration allies?

It is clear that the administration has paid for neutrality, and it is a price steeper than any previous administration would have considered or would have been willing to pay for power. The writ of the government is first-time in growing portions of the national territory; the administration is content with enlarging the powers of its political allies so it can focus on the more lucrative opportunities of refereeing rent-seeking among its business allies.

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Searching for the honest man

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AFTER SEVERAL DISILLUSIONS, I attempt to meet with President Barack Obama to explained my claim during the international conference they both attended. President Macapagal-Arroyo finally received an invitation to visit him at the White House, presumably to discuss grave matters of state between their countries. The Philippine President immediately requested the official party to accompany her, and the group quickly arrived in the United States last month for the official meeting between the two Presidents.

Not all the members of the invited task force were allowed into the Oval Office, and for controversy between President Obama and his honored guest reportedly lasted for not more than 10 minutes, including the perfunctory courtesies. What they discussed was not given much importance by the American media, compared to the "boys summit" Mr. Obama called to resolve a racist issue between a white police officer who had mistakenly suspected a Negro Harvard professor of attempting to burglar his own house.

The meeting of the donors in the White House having ended, the official task, whatever it was, of the members of the presidential party that accompanied her was at an end. Some of us have also wondered that we, they still had to pay home to our hotel from San Mateo. She visited the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, the high-toned party at Le Cirque where the less favors are supposed to be all fancy. It was impressive that they maintain the lofty standards of the Philippine Republic were the happiest of the world.

I am not a simple citizen, with little sense to the ways and rules of the rich and powerful of this particularly government, but in helpless as I am in that jungle of concealed dilemmas and tainted conspiracies. I have the protection of the Bill of Rights and its assurance that accused is false, if not true but to the end, its presume will be fulfilled to the

1. Just Miguel Arroyo is a private person. What public functions did he perform that would not be exercised as a public official? Or was he there "just for the ride" and did not spend a single centavo of the people's money?

2. What public functions were entrusted to the private members of the group that could not be performed by the government officials? Did these private persons, such as the schoolmistress of the President's family children and grandchildren and their respective nannies, who enjoyed Mickelangelo's Monument and Leonardo Museum? Did the private persons in the group enjoy the same privileges given to them in the official group like special treatment, insurance, room and car privileges, and the like?

3. Did the members of Congress like Sen. Alfo Ligot who never believe such an insult to his colleagues and was not submitted to the Oval Office, really say that his best ambition was to have his picture taken with President Obama?

4. Who paid for the dinners at the Chicago Brick House and in Cirque le Bon Ton? Is it true that private individuals picked up the tab that cost as much as P1 million, including liquor? And that their identities are unknown to Mr. Arroyo and her confidantes?

5. Finally, are all these questions covered by President Arroyo's executive privilege as construed by the Supreme Court in Neri's, Senate?

These questions are easy enough to answer if one has an honest mind. All you need is Diogenes' bright lamp that can shine even in the bright light of the day.

No turning back

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

WHAT IS HERE YELLOW, SHIPPY OR opaque? To this question, someone responded: "Money because as time goes by, money increase interest, while a spouse, as time goes by, loses interest."

* * *

In today's gospel (Lk. 6: 44-49), after sometime, especially after Jesus stood firm on His teaching that His flesh is food and that His blood is drink, a lot of His disciples lost interest and "returned to their former ways of life." Or, we, also lose interest in the Lord and His teachings as time goes by?

* * *

"If all I have experienced in love it is like to be surrounded by "this wear her friends" who support us and abide with us in good times but are no longer there in bad times. It is a painful experience, but such is the human condition. Loneliness is tragic in that we all, but such is life. We cannot, and we should not expect anyone to stand, much less, anything lonely from fellow mortals.

* * *

On the other hand, neither should we become cynical about love. As "Intolerable" puts it: "Love is as perennial as the grass, and as universal as life is full of heartaches. There are and there will always be true friends. Real friends are few and they are God's gift to us in this life. Take time today to remember, thank and pray for them.

* * *

I am writing this column in Bangued, Abra. Today, I arrived in Bangued just ago, and the two SVD missionaries arrived at their mission station in Cagayangan, Pilar, Abra. It was a long journey for Fr. John Schoenmann, SVD and Fr. Ludwig Bechtel, SVD, who traveled by boat from Hong Kong, arrived in Manila on Aug. 31, 1949, then proceeded to Pigan, and then finally set off on the road to Pilar (or Bangued), and finally by boat to Pilar—all the time in their black woolen cassocks. We can never imagine the sufferings and sacrifices of

2. How many were present individuals in the group who were charged with the performance of public functions they actually discharged? If so, who were they and what was the nature of their important functions?

* * *

Humble and difficult beginnings ... this is how Father Schoenmann described their church and living quarters: "A bamboo building, 18 meters long and 5.6 meters wide, without windows, since light and air have entry into the church from all sides anyway ... our living quarters consist of one room in a private home and a small adjacent room which has no windows."

* * *

Barely six months after he set foot on the then mission station, Father Schoenmann, one of the SVD pioneers, died of the young age of 27. He was ordained priest on Feb. 14, 1949, and five months later he left his beloved homeland Germany for the Philippines. From early morning to late night, he tried to learn Ilocano, and wanted to minister unto to weaker villages. On the Wednesday after his first (and last) Christmas in the Philippines, he went on a mission trip on foot (since there were no roads). On Thursday, he had severe headache, fever and fever, but continued on his mission trip. It only ten trips to the SVD headquarters in Pilar, exhausted and sick. It was his final mission trip for the Lord and for his people whom he loved.

* * *

His last words to his fellow SVD pioneer Father Bechtel: "Now I am happy, now I am at ease, dying, for heaven it is beautiful. It is better for me that I die now than later. I am only sorry that I have to leave you here behind all by yourself, but rest assured, its heaven I will pray for you and all the inhabitants of this country."

* * *

Father Schoenmann was buried on the top of a hill overlooking his beloved Pilar, Abra, on the morning of Jan. 9, 1950. Father Bechtel wrote: "Lonely and grieving I am now standing at this grave ... yet I hope that this good one, here who so joyfully offered his young life to the Lord, will also have found in Him for Our who rewards generously. May he not forget us, but remember us in the presence of the Most High as a powerful intercessor for us all, and particularly for the young mission. Requiescat in pace."

* * *

The young missions is now a hundred years old. What a journey it has been, and the journey goes on. Yesterday a thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Edgar Pinas Pena, D.D., with 20 bishops and SVD superior general Antonio Pernia, and about 300 priests concelebrating at the Basilica Cathedral to "remember, rejoice and renew" SVD presence in the Philippines. In the same Mass, the provincial superior of the SVD confreres in the Philippines, Antonio Adviento, proposed his centennial wish for the province of labor, peace, good services and good healthendings.

* * *

It was a beautiful picture of the people of Abra to welcome to their homes and host the visitors from all over during the three days of centennial celebrations. It was their way of saying to the Philippines and to the world: "The seed that was sown by the SVDs a hundred years ago is now bearing fruit in our hearts." To this we add: St. Arnold Janssen's prayer, "May the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all."

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, remind me that in following you, there is nothing back. Amen.

Limits of presidential power

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio T. Carpio

Assistant

THE RECENT INQUIRER ARTICLE OF FORMER Ambassador to the United States Albert F. Del Rosario as well as the media statements of former Speaker Jose de Venecia, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and former Justice Secretary Jose Presidential Legal Counsel Raul Gonzalez about emergency rule dictated many readers.

Gen. Del Rosario's position is that the President has the power to declare a state of national emergency whenever in her judgment there exists lawless violence, invasion or rebellion, whether or not actual hostilities are present, and (2) to exercise powers necessarily implied in and incidental to the exercise of her calling-out power, such as the power to temporarily take over the operation of any privately-owned public utility or business affected with public interest. This declaration is the subject of this article.

In Integrated Bar of the Philippines v. Zamora (May 14, 2000) penned by Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, the Supreme Court ruled that, under the first issue called "calling-out" power, the President may indeed validly summon the AFP to aid her in restraining lawless violence, invasion or rebellion. The second issue of martial law or a suspension of habeas corpus, PP 1017 (issued by her) and (2) Act(s) the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (1) "to prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence, invasion or rebellion" and (2) "to undertake whatever action is necessary and appropriate to call the lawless violence mentioned above."

Under the first issue

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
[illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan F. Sarmiento Jr.

OFWs defy ban for high pay in Afghanistan

By Jerome Aning

COMPENSATION AT LEAST FOUR TIMES BIGGER than that offered in the Middle East is enticing Filipinos to work in forward operating bases of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) in Afghanistan despite the dangers and the ban on deploying them to the war-torn country.

The dangers were highlighted by the death of 10 Filipino workers when the helicopter they were riding burst into flames and crashed moments after taking off as a stowaway in the city of Kandahar on July 19.

The 10 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), recruited in the Philippines and the Middle East, were to be deployed for work in the town of Spin Boldak, near the Pakistani border, which hosts a Forward Operating Base manned by Colombian troops.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) identified the fatalities as Marvin Pajera, Celso Castillo, Ely Castillo, Ernesto de Vega, Marcello Rotinsulo, Leopoldo Amoroso Jr., Rodi Viada, Noah Joseph Montano, Rene Tabuchanan and Ricardo Salleyan.

The badly burned bodies were taken to Kuwait and a laboratory in Maryland, United States only parsed samples to further identification via DNA testing. Only Pajera, Amoroso and Montano's bodies were identified, their remains arrived in the Philippines on Aug. 13.

The Philippine government was quick to intervene in two-year-old ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Afghanistan, but migrant workers and recruitment groups said the ban had been a failure.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque said the ban would remain in place and would continue so to be enforced. He urged aspiring OFWs to seek employment in other countries through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and to respond to recruitment agencies.

There are about 1,500 Filipino workers in Afghanistan, 500 in the capital Kabul and 1,000 in the southern part of the country, said Vice President Noli de Castro, also the presidential adviser for OFWs and chair of the interagency Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment (TFAIR).

De Castro said OFWs must be prepared from going to Afghanistan because it was still unsafe for Filipino workers.

Aside from the Filipino fatalities, six people were killed and four others were injured in the crash of an MI-8 chopper, owned by the Russian firm Gruzhal 1.

There were no indications that the crash was caused by hostile fire, more dog to Ulil and survivor details.

Texas-based employer

An investigation by the POEA and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), both agencies of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), found that the Filipino workers were employed by the Texas-based Fluor Corp., an engineering and construction firm that obtained several huge contracts with the US military in Afghanistan.

But the company that recruited the Filipino workers was ABM Group Inc., also a Texas-based firm, which, according to Roque and De Castro, had supposedly got hold of the recruits through "subagents," some of them Filipinos, who were sent in some for workers in the Philippines.

Reached over the telephone, one of the 10 Filipinos acted individually so as not to attract the attention of authorities in the Philippines. One of the two subagents looked for prospective workers in Central Luzon.

"When a potential worker is found, he would be asked if he knows another one who is qualified. The recruiter would then refer and fly them to Dubai, where they are supposedly processed for hiring papers," he said.

Two of the fatalities had worked in Iraq and were directly recruited in Dubai, according to a TFAIR initial investigation.

Recruiters

De Castro said TFAIR was looking for John de la Cruz, one of the two male recruiters in the country. The task force also has identified the female recruiter in Dubai who processed the OFWs' papers.

He said he had asked the labor department to make proper representations with UAE authorities to make the recruiters accountable.

On July 14, TIMS agents at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport intercepted 11 Filipinos bound for Dubai who admitted they were to be deployed to Afghanistan as contractors. Authorities were alerted because the passports of some of the workers showed that they had worked in Afghanistan.

The TFAIR found that the workers' travel documents were facilitated by Emad Ahmad Mohammad Alsaiel, who reportedly owns Inca Tourism and Cargo, a firm in Dubai.

'Robots no'

Emmanuel Geslani, a consultant for several Manila-based recruitment agencies, said the government would remain "powerless" to enforce the ban, especially because the 10 OFWs did not use the front or route post at each land borders as workers.

"The construction activities in Afghanistan continue to attract OFWs because of the high pay and minimum benefits. While the government communication, OFWs are willing to risk their life and limb in work there so that they could give their families back home a better life," he said.

He said he agreed with the observations that Filipinos seem to climb they were "invincible." Geslani attributed this view to the "bahala na" (come what may) attitude of Filipinos.

"Filipinos could not resist to defy the risk and go to Afghanistan, where a janitor can earn up to $800 a month, compared with only $300 in the UAE? A construction worker can earn at least $1,200 there compared with only $300 in the rest of the region. A manager or supervisor earns much, much more," he said.

Unaware of conflict

It may heard that some OFWs themselves lacked adequate information on the real situation in Afghanistan.

"We haven't heard about any conflict there," said Margarita Bonilla, whose husband Nonelito was among the fatalities. She and other grieving families of the 10 OFWs were brought to the Davao Center in Davao by Jay Castro on July 22.

She said Nonelito, who had worked for three years in Iraq, was recruited in Dubai and brought to Afghanistan on July 1 to work as a carpenter with a monthly salary of $1,200. Nonelito left six children, three of whom were in college.

On July 21, Owwa repatriated four OFWs in Afghanistan, including Napoy's father Eduardo and Montano's uncle Ronald de la Cruz. "We took the risk of going to Afghanistan because of the high pay," De la Cruz said. He decided to go home because he could not get hold a job despite his recruiter's promises.

Montano's mother Lorena Antolin at learning brought his son to Iraq. He said he and his son were also lured by the high pay and so took the risk of going to Afghanistan even if they knew of the ban.

US-base insurance act

Geslani said that even if the 10 Filipino fatalities were undocumented in the eyes of the Philippine government, their families could still receive their $10,000 death insurance from their employers in compliance with the US base insurance act covering civilians working in high-risk defense contracts.

The ban on the deployment of OFWs to Afghanistan was imposed by the POEA in December 2007, citing the continuing strife that has engulfed the Central Asian country following the US military's war against international terror.

The government maintains a similar ban in four other countries—Iraq, Nigeria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Jumping points

Despite the ban, recruiters can easily send Filipino workers to Afghanistan. Iraq or Lebanon by using "jumping points," Geslani said.

"Recruits from the Philippines would not go to Afghanistan directly but fly to countries first to Bangkok or Hong Kong, from where they could take flights to Afghanistan. Middle Eastern cities such as Kuwait and Dubai to UAE have also become 'recruitment hotel for OFWs in the region whose contracts have expired and are looking for a new job," he said.

He said there were also allegations in the recruitment in Jordan where a janitor can earn up to $1,200 a month, compared with only $300 in the UAE? A construction worker can earn at least $1,200 there compared with only $300 in the rest of the region. A manager or supervisor earns much, much more," he said.

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US MARINES from Gulf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment, 2nd MEB, shoot mortars as Taliban positions in the mountains behind them after Taliban mortar shells had hit just outside the walls of their forward operating base in Now Zad, Helmand province on Aug. 16. —

US forward bases prefer Filipinos

US AND NATO FORCES battling al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan have been moving toward the southern part of the country near the border with Pakistan, in regions enemy strongholds.

The operations in the Kandahar and Helmand provinces require massive logistics to protect supply routes, support soldiers' needs, and keep camps, bases and other military facilities in tiptop shape, according to the manned Dodaiz.

38 FOBs

Geslani, a consultant for several Manila-based recruitment agencies, said the buildup of forces in southern Afghanistan, would require a network of forward operating bases (FOB) with the city of Kandahar as the nerve center. There are about 30 FOBs across Afghanistan.

He recalled that Phoss, the company that employed the Filipinos who were killed in the chopper crash, had been involved in the construction of eight new FOBs in southern Afghanistan as up in support of new troop commitments ordered by US President Barack Obama.

Troop surge

Beginning 2005, the US deployed troops numbering only about 13,000. There are now 28,000 of them as of March 2009 (excluding the 34,000 Nato troops) and the US defense department wants the number increased to at least 36,000 by the end of the year.

"We're excited to be set up to handle thousands of troops and civilian support staff in the time of $400 million, according to US gov. contract solicitation. And lots of multiplier needed to maintain these bases," Geslani said.

AT LEAST half of Afghanistan is at risk from attacks by Taliban and other militants, according to a map by the US Department of Defense. The map, shown, pinpoints the security picture before the presidential election on Aug. 20. The threat assessment map shows Uthal Afghanistan's 364 districts are regarded as high risk areas.

The FOBs are typically made of prefabricated buildings for dining, barracks, headquarters, recreation and training. They may or may not have their own hospitals and airfields.

The bases could be used as launching pads for troops to attack enemy forces moving in villages to retake territory and set up authorities opposed US troops. The facilities are exposed to have sufficient firepower and other sophisticated defense measures to minimize attacks from the outside.

Hundreds of jobs

Geslani said hundreds of jobs created for available, such as carpenters, electricians, plumbers, water truck and vehicle maintenance crew, training specialists, facilities managers, information technology experts, cooks, agriculture, hospitality managers and laundry supervisors.

The US military prefers Filipino workers because of their familiarity with Western culture and their ability to speak or understand English, according to the consultant.

Filipino construction workers and electricians also understand English-related terms better than their Afghan counterparts, he said.

Geslani said those who were previously employed in US bases in Iraq and those who had experienced working or living in former US bases in the Philippines were given preference. "The Philippine government can only search, helpfully to assist OFWs will stream into Afghanistan, attracted by the high pay, for example, $1,400. For construction workers, which is triple the salaries received in Middle-East countries," he said.

Afghanistan can escape its evidence to recruit locals, as the country prepared to give the jobs for landmark presidential and provincial elections on Aug. 20.

About 27,000 US troops were sent to the country recently to keep stability ahead of the vote. Last month, some 4,000 troops began arriving Taliban strongholds in the southern part of the country. Jerome Aning

3 men of God running; 'GMA must be so bad'

From page A1

declared their presidential ambitions to anyone who would listen.

Those include pastor Eddie "Brother Eddie" Villanueva of the born-again Jesus is Lord Movement, who is taking a second stab at the presidency; self-styled El Shaddai boss, again evangelist Mariano "Brother Mike" Velarde; and a Catholic priest-turned-politician, Pampanga governor Eddie Panlilio.

Argument vs. ultrin

"To me mind, the outbreak of these religious wannabe Presidents is an argument against the present ruling administration, meaning to say, the present ruling administration must be really so bad that it made these three religious men seek the presidency," Cruz said.

To Cruz, "no matter who succeeds," it will be a decided improvement on Mr Arroyo.

"We will have a much better government than now," he said.

Church leaders have been careful not to be seen to be endorsing any particular candidate.

In their latest pastoral statement on the last looming election year, issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, called on "intercepted" people to run for public office and reminded the laity of their "duty" to campaign for deserving candidates.

The CBCP, the official organization of the Catholic Church hierarchy in the country, reportedly disapproves of Panlilio's plan to run for President as he is still officially a priest.

Panlilio took a leave from his priestly duties to run for governor of Pampanga in 2007, which he won. Recently, he said he was ready to leave the priesthood because he felt that "God is calling me to run for the presidency."

Turned off

Cruz said he was turned off by candidates who invoke God to justify their candidacy.

"There are so many candidates now [that] I do not know who to vote for. But I will not vote for those who say they are talking to God," he said.

"Beware of the candidates who say they are talking to God. We should learn my lesson," Cruz said, alluding to Mr Arroyo's who after her contested 2004 victory was quoted as saying that it was God who placed her in the presidency.

Cruz did not spare Panlilio, a former subordinate, from his criticism.

The bishop said humility, kindness and piety are not enough qualifications to be elected President.

He said it was more important that the candidate has competence to govern.

"Politics is the art of governance. And governance is not just a question of being lady, please, kind and humble. You must just as well get a candidate superior to that in the side qualifications," he said.

Skating through the rails in Tagkawayan

From page A1

want one with a gasoline-powered engine, this would cost P30,000.

Shares can seat eight people. They are built as light as possible with a detachable roof. This is because skaters must be lifted off the tracks if there are other skaters coming from the opposite direction. Personnel disembark their skaters with loose passengers must give way.

However, skaters carrying a bi-sexual party, newlyweds and pigs go unchallenged.

Welcomed service

"Skaters have become a big part of our lives," explains 54-year-old Aquiline Bartido, skaters driver since 2000. "People prefer to ride skates because it is cheaper than taking a tricycle and it is more convenient."

In a remote area where there are no motor roads between communities and where people don't earn a lot, skaters are considered a service more than a business.

"Residents use their cell phones and call for skaters when there is a medical emergency or when they need a ride immediately. It is not unusual for people without money to get a free ride," Bartido says.

Skaters earn 20 hours a day. Passengers pay P30 a ride. At one day, drivers make an average of P150 in one line of gasoline.

"It's not much but it's a good and honest source of livelihood," he adds.

Drivers can sometimes earn a little more when visitors want a tour of the countryside on skates.

Heritage structures

"It's exciting and liberating to travel on an open-air skate, passing fish ponds, rice lands, coconut plantations and riverbanks," says Bernard of Barangay Lusod.

"This is my family's ancestral land. Twice need to be the only means of travel in and out of Lusod. Until the skates came. Change has come and gone but sadly people don't appreciate our railway history," she says.

Skaters are made as they may soon, bring visitors to see high, unsupported bridges that are nearly a century old, the wooden stations stationed and that line the tracks and the few historic stone train stations that have not been vandalized or eaten over by squatters.

A FIVE-SEATER skater like the one rolling past the old train station, but only one preserved in the area (below), soon give way to bigger-capacity skates like the ones above.

Lusod notes: "Without skaters, these heritage structures would have gone unnoticed."

Future of skates

With the recent inauguration of the rehabilitated PNR train system and plans to ply the Manila-Bicol train line this year, residents of Tagkawayan are wondering about the future of skates and how it would affect their lives.

"Trains stop only at the station," says Imelda Arcelon of Barangay Candelaspiga. "If the skates stop, we'll have to walk several kilometers more to the station. It will be difficult especially if we have things to carry."

Train line is also a big concern. "I commute daily to Tagkawayan," says Francisco Medenilla, a 49-year-old carpenter. "I spend P20-24 daily to get to work and a little less for my two children who ride the skates to school. I'm hoping the train fare will be cheaper than the skates because if we can't afford to ride the train, it'll be a 7 km walk for all of us."

Filipino ingenuity admired

The PNR recognizes the valuable contributions of skaters but at the end of the day, it still heads down to safety.

"Skaters are illegal simply because railways are meant only for trains," explains PNR chief of staff Nicolas Bella Pirela.

"The trains will not only provide commuter services, it will also provide freight services. The skaters have served as an alternative means of transportation for commodities in remote areas but once the trains start running again, the tracks will be too busy for skaters to operate," he says.

Unforgettable

Pirela shares an unforgettable experience when he rode the skates some years back.

"I thought it was quite a pleasant ride until there was a train heading toward me. We only had time to grab our things and jump off the skates before it was smashed to bits by the train. It would've been for more dangerous if the train had tried to stop," he relates.

Inasmuch as Pirela admires Filipinos ingenuity for inventing the skaters, he reminds people that they are unsuitable structures.

"Skaters are unsafe and their operation will eventually be stopped," he says.

On a positive note, he adds: "As more trains run on the railroad track, more local hands will be employed to maintain them," he said.

Asia's Titanic: Docu recalls sea tragedy

From page A1

that life-altering experience.

Police officers Lachpatchi Sindo, he all the urges he trained and combat skills he learned as a former Army man, written at the thought of kneeling by sea. "Never again," he swore grimly.

These survivors tell their incredible stories, amid pained pauses and stifled sobs, in "Asia's Titanic," a one-hour documentary produced and presented by the National Geographic Channel International (NGCI).

The documentary is NGCI's first collaboration with a Filipino production group and was recently aired in North America and Australia. It premieres locally on Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 8 p.m.

P18-M project

At the helm of the P18-million project is Yam Laranas, a prize-winning feature film director whose most notable work to date is "Sigaw," which won the Grand Jury Award at the 2004 Brussels International Festival of Fantastic Films, and which was remade in Hollywood as "The Echo."

Despite the laborious research, extensive networking and expert opinions that went into "Asia's Titanic," Laranas says it is not meant to be an investigative expose.

But it does deliver "a strong admonition about sea safety" issues NGC Philippines executive director Judd Theriault.

Even so, the main focus is the story-telling. NGCI was very clear that the drama should be the narrative and the characters told. Laranas had no problem with that.

"This is a very sad story, but one that needs to be told. It should not be forgotten," says Laranas, who was fresh out of high school and had just received the Himodelkod Film Institute when the tragedy occurred which affected him profoundly.

"Entire families, including small children, burned and drowned. The deaths left almost entire villages and small towns empty," he recalls.

When preproduction started, he realized that the subject was frustrating as well. "We may never know their stories," he says.

Indeed, vital questions remain unanswered. Exactly how many were on board? How could the two vessels, both moving very slowly, crash into one another as they were clear night? One survivor remembers sighting the tanker from a distance. Wasn't an officer watching from either side?

DISASTER AT SEA The sinking of Doña Paz, Asia's Titanic, as recreated by the documentary to be shown on National Geographic Channel on Tuesday

Back-up project

Laranas originally pitched his project to the NGC regional office in Singapore in late 2003 in response to an invitation issued to regional filmmakers. His priority categories was that a documentary on the flash flood and landslide that hit Ormoc City, Leyte, in November 1991 in which about 5,000 people died. Doña Paz was a "back-up" project.

NGCI is owned by the National Geographic Television and Fox Entertainment Group. It coordinates to the National Geographic Society's exploration, conservation and education efforts through its cable stations, including the National Geographic Channel, which is available in 305 million homes in 165 countries and in 34 languages. "Asia's Titanic" will have version in all 34 languages for worldwide distribution.

108 percent Filipino

According to Laranas, Ormoc was his first choice on account of the issues involved—deforestation, global warming. "I thought it was a stronger story," he says.

Although Ormoc and Doña Paz both made it to the final list, it was the latter that was approved for grants, along with 11 others. NGCI did not explain its choice.

Laranas spent part of the P18 million budget on high-definition equipment, prescribed for international broadcast quality.

The crew that he put together was "108 percent Filipino." Even the special effects and computer graphics in the finished product "are proudly Philippine-made," he says.

Quality necessarily included "highly intensive" research, says Laranas, who singles out for praise the project's head researcher Bebot Villarama, who was nine production managers.

Locating the survivors

Fortunately for the crew, the survivors and families of the victims had almost immediately after the tragedy organized themselves into a group called Doña Paz, Hooray for "we're all together."

Through Doña, the team found 14 of the 26 survivors who had been plucked from the sea, 24 hours the story and two days the tanker.

Some of the 24 had died in the 22 years since the tragedy. Of the 14 who are still alive, only eight could recount clearly their harrowing experiences. But once they decided to talk, Laranas says, "no matter how much pain it stirred up for them, they were eager to tell us everything they remembered."

Detailed dramatization

The film is a detailed dramatization, from boarding time till the sea was left littered with charred bodies and bewildered survivors.

Laranas' research on underwater scenes included watching footage of the Titanic, which sank in 1912 and was discovered in 1985.

"Asia's Titanic" will have versions in all 34 languages for worldwide distribution.

Confidence

He says doing "Asia's Titanic" has given him the confidence to make big documentary projects. "Maybe now I will dare be regarded as a documentary filmmaker, aside from a TV commercial and movie director," he says.

Inevitably, "Asia's Titanic" impacts more deeply on the filmmaker's feelings and views about mortality.

"You realize that life is truly short and that death lurks everywhere. And it can be caused by mistakes made by other people," says Laranas.

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

Town near ecozone in Cagayan urged to build sanitary landfill

SAN MATEO, Isabela—The government agency tasked with developing and managing an ecozone in northern Cagayan has asked local officials in a coastal town near the ecozone to attend to their town's garbage problem by building a sanitary landfill.

Jose Mari Wenn, administrator of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (Ceza), has urged the Santa Ana town government to establish its own sanitary landfill and put an end to the supposed illegal dumping of garbage within the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport (CSEFP).

"The immediate establishment of the sanitary landfill in Barangay Bagah or Barangay Dinna-Dinnagan will address the emergency need of an authorized dumping site for solid wastes of the people of Santa Ana as well as the Cebu-registered boaters," Wenn said in a letter to Santa Ana Mayor Scottie Vero Rodriguez.

Acting on complaints of residents, Santa Ana officials earlier discovered Ceza's supposed inability to regulate the disposal of solid and liquid wastes, which, they said, had been polluting the town's seashore and beaches.

They expressed concern that this worsening pollution would disrupt the government's plan to convert Santa Ana and the 54,000-hectare Freeport as "the next logistics and tourism hub in the country."

Town assessors blamed the influx of foreign visitors into the Freeport for the garbage problem.

Fence inside the mall after an onsite inspection by officials of the Ceza's environment office found a pile of garbage behind the town's slaughterhouse and public market, about 200 meters from the open sea.

It left undisturbed, the pile of wastewater from the slaughterhouse and the polluted waters "may lead to the spread of communicable diseases in the area," Wenn said.

He said a sanitary landfill "will put an end to the continuous illegal dumping of enriched wastes anywhere within (freeport zone), especially those unorganized solid wastes at the back of the public market."

He cited the recommendation by the Environmental Management Bureau for the town government to immediately build the landfill and establish a materials recovery facility in every barangay.

Rodriguez said plans have been made for the reconstruction of a five-hectare sanitary landfill in Barangay Bagah.

"But these had been suggestions to expand it into a 10-hectare facility. We are about to conduct the bidding for the project," he said.

He downplayed Ceza's report on the unsheltered garbage near the town market. "The pictures submitted to Ceza were taken during a recent coastal clean-up activity. Naturally, there were the piles of garbage there," he said.

The law on solid waste management, however, requires all local government units to build sanitary landfills or face charges. Mikko Ibinson, Inquirer Northern Luzon

DoT opposes Roro port in El Nido

By Kristine L. Alave

THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT opposes the building of a Roll On Roll Off (Roro) port in El Nido, Palawan, expressing fear it could wreak havoc on the resort island's marine environment and on the livelihood of its inhabitants.

Tourism Secretary Joe Durano said a more thorough study of the infrastructure's impact on the ecological system in the resort island, a protected area, should be made before construction begins.

"My message: establishment of infrastructure to bring in Roro are clear measures and guidelines on the ecological preservation of surrounding communities," said Durano.

"Ecotourism is the island's primary source of living. Therefore, environmental conservation should be a priority concern of the developers," Durano added.

TOURISM officials and tour operators view the Mindanao Tourism Highway map that identifies tourism centers. The officials and representatives of tourism companies met at the three-day Mindanao Travel and Tour Expo.

Protected area

El Nido is one of the major tourism spots in the country. It is considered a protected area because of the diversity of its marine species. It is also home to world-class resorts.

Critics of the port project, which include the municipality of El Nido and the island's resort owners, also expressed fears over the damage to the island's ecosystem that dredging would bring.

The DoT also noted that the planned route of the Roro ferries will displace small fishing boats, which will have no effect on coastal communities.

El Nido Foundation Executive Director Irma Rose Maceda said the proposed project, which will be supervised by the Philippine Ports Authority, will cover 70,440 square meters along the El Nido pier.

This means the displacement of 11,000 residents of coral.

She also said the project goes against the municipality's tourism plan. According to the town of El Nido's Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan, the area is limited to "low density and nature-based" tourism activities, which will be largely affected by frequent Roro trips that spur mass tourism.

Instead of building a port in El Nido, the DPA should improve a nearby port, she said. "Instead of opening another port, we recommend the expansion of the San Fernando pier which has a natural outlook, sound, and thus requires no dredging," Maceda said.

Earlier, the DoT said tourism in Palawan has not been affected from reports on a clash in Baldoni between members of the Moro National Liberation Front and government soldiers.

The DoT said the center of the clash, the town of Baldoni, is "inaccessible" from Palawan's major tourist destinations.

Extortion

"Baldoni is a remote area," the DoT statement said.

The clash led to the killing of 10 MNLF members while 14 were accused of occupying the island and having soldiers to rough up an army.

The DoT said there were no reports of tour cancelations as a result of the clash.

Tour operators in Palawan often mostly overreacted and sabotage tourism campaigns.

One of the province's main tourism attraction, the underground river, is a candidate to become one of the world's seven natural wonders.

In the first semester of 2009, tourist arrivals in the region jumped 63 percent to 463,000 visitors, the DoT said.

GMA spokesman declares bid for House seat in Bacolod City

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—LEBUTH Presidential spokesperson Anthony Golez Jr. announced on Wednesday his intention to run for congressman of Bacolod City for 2010.

Golez, who took his oath as member of the Nationalist People's Coalition Party last week in Manila, will run under the NPC ticket that would include Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia and Vice Mayor Jude Thaddeus Sayson. Both are term-holding incumbents.

Sharing the lineup of the Golez-Leonardia-Sayson ticket, Golez explained that it was his personal decision to join the NPC, the first political party he had ever joined.

He said the President would support any personal plans of people working under her and he had consulted her twice on the matter.

"I hope those who still mix will give the people better options. And better options would mean a track record, which narrows down the choices of the person running should be impossible, leaving toward service to other people," Golez said.

Leonardia, NPC Bacolod chair, said nothing like Golez would happen if he had run in Negros Occidental 3 NPC chairs Assemblyman Edwards "Dondog" Calvelo para.

Albay gov, execs prepare for Mayon dome collapse

LEGAZPI CITY—LOCAL DISASTER officials will conduct barangay consultations on Monday for selected officials and representatives from the six villages of Buyuganon, Bonot and Padang here to help farmers selling their land and orchid gardens concrete in case of a crater collapse.

Albay Gov. Joey S. Salceda called an emergency meeting of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council on Saturday to formulate a separate emergency plan and preemptive measures to save the farmers and orchid collectors that enter the 6-kilometer danger zone around Mayon Volcano for their livelihood.

Salceda and disaster authorities said since the lava dome at the center of the volcano collapses, it might unleash some 200,000 cubic meters of lava and mud even without a major eruption.

MAYON VOLCANO is under close watch by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology after showing some restless in the past several months.

Danger is there

"Although we are not saying that it will already collapse, the danger is there," said Cedric Daep, Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apemo) chief.

"I mean actually it is composed of the protruding lava dome volume. An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 cubic meters of rocks could collapse and cascade as loose volcanic materials down the gullies, luring Bonot and Padang villages in Legazpi City," resident volcanologist Eduardo Laguerta said.

Laguerta said the dome, which is 2,462 meters above sea level (the height of Mayon), has not changed much in the July and August aerial surveys.

The dome, he said, rises 100 meters during the past three years but a closer look on Tuesday revealed it has formed already.

"This mass is unstable and will break more than it is. Any shake might result in a 'collapse-type' of pyroclastic eruption just like what happened in Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, where a lot of volcanic rocks and even human were killed," Laguerta said.

No forecast

He, however, found it very hard to forecast when it will collapse.

"It might not fully collapse but it will crumble and pulverize, and result in an avalanche of loose material," Laguerta said.

Col. Eleuterio Bulanon of the Task Force Mayon, said his group would also intensify its human and orchid collection in earlier advisory to be vigilant.

He said, however, that most of the orchid collectors are outside the southeast quadrant, particularly in areas having Upper Day, upon the Legazpi side.

"Most of the farmers are not only from Buyuganon and Padang but also even from other villages near the area," Daep said.

Peter Siria, Legazpi City Disaster Coordinating Council head, was tasked by Salceda with evacuating the members of farmers.

Evacuating animals

Salceda said he had already requested the National Disaster Coordinating Council to immediately release fire extinguishers, gas masks and other important supplies needed during an emergency.

The Provincial Veterinary Service Office said it was ready to evacuate livestock, such as carabaos, cows and dogs owned by the farmers.

In Buyuganon alone, there are 155 farmers but those from Padang and the nearby barangays are still to be interviewed by the Agency.

Boy M. Bunal, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Mindanao

War evacuees keep the cooking going

By Lira Sagsod Reyes
Inquirer Mindanao

SOLDIERS distribute food packs to another set of evacuees in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, who might be in a different voting list as in the suffering from the same miseries that fellow evacuees are going through in Maguindanao. CHRIS ISIDRO

MAGUINDANAO—Fatimah and Abdul Mujid literally took the kitchen sink when they fled with their three children from the heavy military shelling of their village to the safety of a school house in the *poblacion* in August last year.

It was a few days after the month-long August 2008 government soldiers were hurling a siege on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) every night. Twelve of Matanog town's 10 villages, including their village of Dagopaan, were marked as battle grounds.

The Mujid' decision proved to be sensible: They were able to set up a makeshift stall made of plastic of coconut fronds and tarpaulin roofings.

In a few days they could again ply their trade—a small hardware store—on the roadside just by the entrance to the evacuation camp on the campus of the Matanog-Ipan Elementary School.

Clientele

The evacuees, their village neighbors, remain the patrons of the rustic abode and snacks that they cooked every day.

"I have forgotten to bring some of the baby's diapers, but I made sure we brought along the stove, pots, glasses and plates," said Fatimah. Abdul's wife, as she nodded their exodus toward the center of town in the evening of Aug. 25, a few days after the Ramadan began.

"We even brought some firewood with us," she added.

At its their village nursery, here among fellow Bakwit (local term for internally displaced persons), they will whip up the same daily fare of coffee, blind delay (muffins) and pinangat (dried shapat and dilis/ginipay (coal-roasted bananas).

'Batchoy' version

Their nursery's piece de resistance is batoy, a modified version of La Paz batchoy of Iloilo. Fatimah's hometown before she met Abdul and relocated to their own home and lifetime.

"It has been a year and we are still here. It (war) hasn't gone this long before," she said, recalling that she, too, was a bakwit in 2003, but that the villagers were able to return home after three months or so.

'Halo-halo'

In the town of Datu Saudjula, the main boulevard is Kaga Bakkil's child-lined of bus passenger shelter in another bakwit camp in front of the municipal hall, is halo-halo.

Instead of a variety of fresh and jellied fruits, the ingredients of her halo-halo are

A MGBO rebel displays his weapon, a rocket propeller, in a Moro Islamic Liberation Front camp in the jungles of Datu Odin Sinsuat in Maguindanao. The MILF continues to wage war for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao, displacing thousands of families, including Muslims. AUTHOR'S FILE

'I have forgotten to bring some of the baby's diapers, but I made sure we brought along the stove, pots, glasses and plates ...'

famous rice pinanguit, coffee and brown sugar.

"We wish to spread Bell Pilo (soul of Ramadan) to Dapaganyo," Fatimah said.

Bell is the word of epsoh of the thousands of displaced people who are spread throughout Maguindanao and four other provinces in Mindanao who are waiting for peace to come around soon.

Poor, homeless workers of Davao create model community

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Davao City

SLEEPING ON A soggy jute sack with only a makeshift tent to shield them from the rain had been one of the happiest nights for the Pelkan couple.

That was five years ago when they first set foot on Sitio San Roque in Barangay 23-A, near the banks of the Davao River. The place was practically a wide 15-hour grass shrubs growing on parched earth. No one suspected that it had been lying there in the heart of Davao City, abandoned and idle for decades... until the people came.

In October 2004, a group of workers saw the land's potential in a permanent habitat that can become a model community built by the hands of poor, homeless people. The Davao United Workers and Homeowners Association formed teams to clean up the lot, excavating five hectares and removing from the Ma-a highway all the way to the river banks.

"For 15 years, we had to live like rats going from one place to another, our five children never having a decent place to live in," says Estrellita Pelkan.

She recalled how she and her husband hauled through the thick shrubs to clear a good spot to pitch a small tent. "We slept there even if our backs ached from sleeping on the cold earth. We were excited to finally have our own permanent place," she says.

The Pelkans had at least 200 other families swept through the entire property and organized a disciplined, united neighborhood with a vision for development.

Self-styled people power

"We all agreed that every family should occupy only 60 square meters, no more, no less, so that everyone will be accommodated ... no one should be greedy," says Grace Tarrijas, current president of the association now called the United Workers and Homeowners Association of Davao (Uhwad).

"But that 60 square meters had been enough for us to build our future," chuckles Estrellita, whose husband heard of the move to occupy the abandoned area from fellow workers in a sweatshop.

It was a self-styled "people power," say the Pelkan couple, smiling as they remembered how they had either "pulled" five "puwet-puwet" arrived with plows and many backs, transforming them from brush to clean-the-place. Until the next morning, they built makeshift structures in each designated parcel.

"By noon there not to destroy anything but to build something. We were united and we knew we were not doing anything wrong," says Estrellita.

The unity extended beyond cultural or religious differences. Forged by people of equal social grade, there were a number of from Ata Manobos, some are "forced" to migrate to the city in search of livelihood.

'For 15 years, we had to live like rats going from one place to another, our five children never having a decent place to live in ...'

Land Bank property

"We found out that the abandoned lot was actually owned by the Land Bank of the Philippines in Quadrant. It was a disputed area. When we talked to the Land Bank representative, we let them see that the people had already set up the community. That's why we asked the members to show their determination in keeping and taking care of the land," Tarrijas says.

The Land Bank eventually agreed to negotiate with the residents on the possibility of awarding the land to them. At the same time, the people began to develop the area and consolidated themselves for saving and finishing of the lots.

Some already applied for socialized housing, specifically The Davao Light and Power Corp., seeing the occupants' perseverance, agreed to put up more posts so that others could have stable power connection.

"We also drafted a vision for the community, where there is peace, where everyone is secure and where every child will grow up safe, healthy and well-provided. We wanted it to be a model community," Tarrijas says.

Caretakers of river

On their initiative, the workers took up the campaign to protect and take care of the Davao River, source of its importance to their livelihood and the environment, they organized with local village leaders to create watch teams to spot pollution.

"We also made sure that our members are aware of proper waste disposal and that all homes will have their own toilet. We learned to keep the area," says Bernardo Tabliso, the president of Uhwad.

The river stretches through several city barangays, including 19-A whose residents rely on fishing for their livelihood.

"We also make sure that all of our members and their children understand the importance of taking care of the river because this will be their permanent home," Tabliso says.

Tabliso, who also acts as a peace and order enforcer, proudly says the community is one of the most peaceful places in Davao City.

FISHING boats from different cities traverse the Davao River in the Kadayawan sa Dabaw festival. ARNOLD ALMACEN

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NEWS

12-hour hostage drama leaves 1 dead, 1 hurt

IMUS, CAVITE—A 12-HOUR HOSTAGE-TAKING INCIdent left a man dead and another wounded in a barangay here Saturday.

Two alleged hostage-takers surrendered to the police and two hostages were released.

The fatality was identified only as Herbert, Rhyan Nancy Riddled said the police were still trying to determine if the victim was one of the hostage-takers or a resident of Ivyland Apartments in Barangay Tres Isong I-Ab where the suspects hid to avoid capture by the police.

The alleged hostage-takers who surrendered were identified as Jun and Roger—both surnamed Ramon although they are not related. Their surrender followed negotiations between the police and the suspects' relatives, Riddled said.

Edong Bandon, a barangay resident who led the police to the apartments, was shot in the leg and was brought to the Our Lady of the Pillar hospital for treatment.

Jun's surrender at around 3:30 p.m. was arranged by his brother Jerry. Roger surrendered some 30 minutes later after speaking to his wife.

Senior Supt. Alfred Corpus, Cavite police provincial director, said the suspects had no other choice. "They either surrender or die," he told reporters after the suspects were taken into custody.

Riddled said the two were trying to avoid arrest for illegal involvement in recent kidnapping incidents when they went to the apartment complex at about 4 a.m. Saturday.

Bulletproof vest

As the police followed the suspects, shots were fired in the compound killing Bebon, who was in his 40s. Neighbors said the victim lived in one of the apartments.

SPO2 Gilbert Gumaching, of the Cavite police sex bit, but was protected by his bulletproof vest.

The suspects entered Ruth Estrella's apartment and held him and his girlfriend Maribel Aguilles hostage.

Amy Estrella, 45, Ruth's mother, said she talked to her son at around 2 a.m. when he was on the way home. At around 3 a.m., he sent a text message saying, "Mom, pakisabi mo ako. Na-hostage ako. (Send me food. I've been taken hostage)."

Demands

Amy said she talked to one of the suspects on Ruth's cell phone. The suspect demanded a getaway car, media (according to text) guns.

Hostages Estrella and Aguilles were rushed to a hospital for checkups after their release.

The police recovered a baby Armalite and two .45-cal. pistols. The suspects were brought to the Cavite provincial police headquarters for investigation.

Corpus said Jun and Roger, as well as Elmer Ramon, who surrendered in a hospital in Cavite City Thursday evening, belonged to a group suspected of involvement in a series of kidnapping incidents that began Wednesday morning and were through the provinces of Cavite, Quezon and Bulacan.

Some hostage-victims rescued Thursday evening in Silang, Cavite. Marlene P. Cibes, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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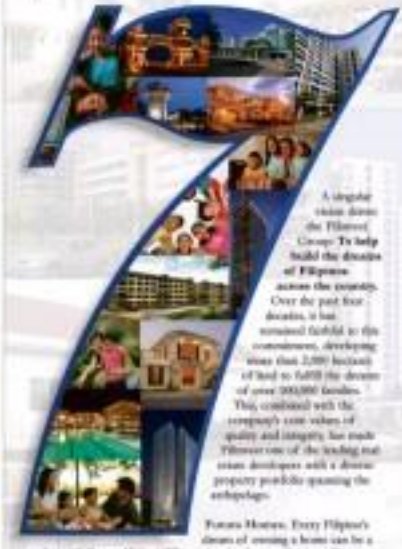
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Editor Abelardo S. Ulandey

Homicide raps set vs 5 cops for slay of alleged car thieves

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SAYING THE VICTIMS HAD TRIED TO FLEE, prompting a pursuit, the Office of the Ombudsman said it would file homicide charges—not murder—against five policemen for the death of three young men police had claimed to be car thieves in Ortigas some four years ago.

In a press statement yesterday, the Office of the Ombudsman said it would file homicide charges with the Pasig City Regional Trial Court against Senior Insp. Gerard Shorenstein, Senior Insp. Samson Belmonte, PO3 Lloyd Veña, PO2 Dioniso Bernardo Jr., all of the Philippine National Police Traffic Management Group.

The Commission on Human Rights had earlier recommended that 18 Tech Force (police) members be charged with multiple murder, but in a 14-page resolution, the Office of the Ombudsman said "the evidence on record failed to show that the respondents employed (treachery) or qualified the crime of murder."

"The use of treachery is whether or not the victim was threatened or attacked (by the opportunity to make a defense or to ward off the attack," the Office of the Ombudsman said. "In this case, the victims were in fleet and two firearms were recovered inside their vehicles."

Francis Xavier Manlapaz, Anton Cui Lapitan and Rolan Anthony Daley were shot dead while inside a minivan Mitsubishi Adventure on Nov. 7, 2008.

Police said the three refused to stop at a checkpoint and opened fire, prompting a shootout. Police also claimed that there were members of the car theft group Valle Verde Gang.

But relatives claimed it was a cultural, especially after a video footage of the incident by television station GMA-7 surfaced.

In the Office of the Ombudsman's preliminary investigation, the policemen claimed the shootout was a legitimate operation, following intelligence report saying the gang would operate in the area that night.

Police said they were informed the group would be using a maroon Nissan Exalta and named them "the group was armed with high powered firearms and explosives and would be under the influence of dangerous drugs."

The policemen also claimed self-defense, saying the victims opened fire on them, hitting Belmonte's right leg.

But forensic expert Raquel Fortun belied their claims, saying "Belmonte's wounds were self-inflicted and probably accidental."

Sta. Ana bridge, bospital to be named after Cory

By Tina G. Santos

THE LAMBINGAN BRIDGE and a 10-story public hospital which is under construction, both in Sta. Ana, Manila, will be named after the late President Corazon Aquino in a row of honoring her and the selfless dedication she gave for the country.

Mayor Alfredo Lim announced this during the commemoration Friday of the 26th death anniversary of Senator Ninoy Aquino Jr. held at his monument on P. Burgos Drive near Roxas Boulevard.

"This is the least we can do to show our gratitude to President Aquino who has sacrificed even for the country," Lim said.

Lim also announced that the monument to Cory, which would be built beside her husband's, will be unveiled on Jan. 15, 2010, to coincide with her birthday.

The hospital, located in the site where the Tondo Hospital used to stand, will also be inaugurated on the same date.

Lim added that the renaming of Lambingan Bridge was inspired by the undying love that the Aquino couple had for each other.

The mayor earlier opened a public high school and a playground, both in Barrio, Tayuman, after the late President.

During the program, Lim recalled Ninoy's martyrdom even at the expense of his own happiness and family.

He also called on the younger generation to emulate the late opposition leader's patriotism and the kind of dedication that he and his wife exhibited in public service.

It's perfect to be a child of an overseas Filipino worker. It's painful to be the ones who suffer.

Andy dela Cuesta, August 2009

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor: Gerry Lirio
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Text or your feedback: ...

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their ... and for their stories.

Filipino designer makes waves in Saudi, Taiwan, Samoa and NY

DESIGNER Bong Fernandez shows one of his creations in his shop in Phuket, the best of two decades of overseas work. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Bing R. Johnston

BONG FERNANDEZ WAS ONE OF THE pioneers among Filipino fashion designers who sought work overseas. In 1982, he left his little dress shop in Manchow City and swept to Jeddah, a modern industrial city in Saudi Arabia.

Fernandez, Tito Bong to his friends, graduated as designer in an Arabian boutique.

He began at the bottom, so to speak, with a salary of $250 a month. But it wasn't long before he was "discovered" and became a favorite of many elite and royal families in the Middle Eastern kingdom.

"Within from my sidelined clients started to flood us. My boss was extremely happy with my creations and he increased my salary to $1,500 a month after only three months, recalled Tito Bong. He added: "I was able to send my children to a good school."

"I drew inspiration for my designs from my two daughters and my son; they were very young at that time. I wanted to provide the best for them, a good education, a beautiful house, nice clothes ... everything that a father could provide for his children," he said.

But he suffered from loneliness and anxiety during his first stint abroad.

"Homesickness haunted me on lonely nights, especially when my body asked after (short time) work. I would lie on my bed but could not bring myself to sleep, wondering how the kids were doing, if they were okay if they had enough food ... a lot of other things would run through my mind," he said.

In those days, there were no mobile phones. He communicated with his family through "snail mail" and audio tapes. Long distance telephone calls were expensive.

"My big dreams for my children were my only strength. It helped me survive loneliness in Saudi Arabia for six years," he said.

Opening windows

Fernandez's fashion creations soon attracted the attention of the Middle East media. He was featured in GQ magazine, which named him a "Man of Fashion" and Mode magazine.

He received earned windows of opportunity for other Filipino designers. Fashion boutiques sponsored several Jeddah and other places in the kingdom. The owners actively recruited Filipino designers.

"In the 80s, Saudi Arabia became a major destination for Filipino designers. We were the highest paid and most respected designers in the kingdom," said Tito Bong.

He returned home to Mandaluyong City, Cebu in 1986.

A month after his return, however, he got another overseas job offer. This time in Taiwan.

"I considered the offer because I didn't want to spend the money I had saved for my children's future. And the salary package being offered by the Taiwanese employer was good," he said.

Off he went to Taiwan in May 1986. He worked in a fashion company there for five years.

While he was in Taiwan, he began making plans to put up his own business in the Philippines so he could spend more time with his growing children. Every month he tucked away a portion of his salary to build up capital for a business.

He was back home in 1991, but his plan to set up a business was again put on hold. His former Saudi employers had set up a boutique in Amorsolo Samoa, in the South Pacific and wanted to reserve the services.

"The compensation package offered by my former boss was excellent and it was really hard to resist especially because at that time when the conversion rate of a US dollar to the peso was high. So we resettled here, then I went to American Samoa," he said.

Tito Bong said he was fortunate that his employer always remained supportive and believed in his talent.

"I loved my work as a designer, at the same time I earned more than enough for the needs of my children back home," he said.

Bong's secret: customer care

Tito Bong often went the extra mile to please his customers. One incident that highlighted this, as well as his creativity and speed in the job, occurred but hours in yesterday's take him to New York.

One afternoon in Samoa, a female client popped in their shop but hours before closing time, asking for a gown to wear to prom night.

"She then told the lady that our shop could not accept such a rush order. It would take two to three days to deliver her order and besides, we had run out of textile."

"I heard her begging my boss and I pitied her, I really wanted to help," he said.

"So I told her, Ma'am, maybe I can help you with your problem if you would trust me using my curtains. The lady was so shocked but, out of desperation, she accepted my offer. I told her to return after three hours.

"It was my boss' turn to get shocked. His eyes opened wide as he shook of the client heading for downpayment to me. After the lady left the shop, my boss asked me if I know what I was doing. But I quickly ordered my assistant to take the entire curtain off the wall, and started working on a design."

Two hours later, the gown was wrapped around the mannequin.

"I had the gown steamed and cleaned. The lady returned and was astounded. She asked, 'Is this really a curtain?'"

She loved the gown, thanked me profusely and rushed to her party," Tito Bong recounted.

The next day the customer returned to the shop and handed Fernandez an envelope. "The lady said, 'Thank you for your kindness and fantastic creation. Please open the envelope after I leave.'"

Later, when he opened the envelope, he nearly fainted to find such a big sum of money.

This incident impressed his Asmi employer. Later, he would tell Tito Bong to pack his bags for a return from New York to compete in a fashion design contest.

Three of his designs won first prize and he received $1,000 cash and trophy.

In December 1995, Tito Bong returned home. He decided it was time to put his knowledge to use.

"I'd been away for almost two decades as an overseas worker, but every time, I returned, I noticed that nothing had changed, except that the people I knew were getting older. And my clients never becoming poorer. So I put up a garment business to create jobs for the people of my hometown," he said.

Tito Bong's then supplied ready-to-wear garments under the label "Kampot" in two local malls.

After his daughters graduated from college and became successful in their respective fields, they suggested to their father that he stop working. But Tito Bong said he simply could not abandon his clients.

His children, who are now living in New Zealand, implored him again to take it easy after he was diagnosed with a heart ailment. But Tito Bong said, "I can't simply abandon my passion to fashion."

Fernandez now keeps himself busy with his new boutique shop on Kensington Street in Makati City, which caters to male and female clients, as well as for modest investments in a spa, restaurants and resorts.

He advises aspiring designers: "Discipline and experience are vital ingredients in a fashion designer's success. There are many paths you can take to attain your goal, but no matter how successful you become, save a portion of your income for rainy days."

> Tito Bong's employer was so impressed with his creativity and speed that he brought him to New York

The zero-tolerance policy on drug use must be changed

By Leandro Santos Tancinco, Esq.

ROLANDO MERCADO TO the United States with his family when he was three years old. His parents struggled to make both ends meet in order to send Rolando and his siblings to school.

When Rolando turned 18, he decided to apply for citizenship. He was arrested by the police during a drug bust and was charged with possession and use of illegal drugs. After serving his sentence, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents detained him and put him in removal proceedings because of his drug conviction. Rolando's parents decided to take him back to the Philippines and did not contest the deportation order.

Rolando is the only family member who is now residing in the Philippines. All his siblings are in the United States while he lives with his cousins in his mother's home province. He is now fully rehabilitated and wants to return to the US to start a new life. His US citizen wife, whom he met in former classmate in high school, is petitioning the US government to give him a fiancé visa so they can get married in the US.

Unfortunately, Rolando was told that he can no longer return to the US unless he obtains a waiver of his drug conviction. He is now at a loss and is resigned to the fact that he will be permanently separated from his wife and children.

IMFO
Leandro Santos Tancinco

Is he really barred from returning to the US for life?

Drug abuse

The Immigration and Nationality Act clearly bars a drug abuser or addict from receiving an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa or from with the country's Controlled Substances Act.

The usual waivers available to those who are otherwise inadmissible for certain crimes are not available to drug abusers, except for those who can prove that they only used "marijuana" once, and in an amount under 30 grams or less than 30 pieces.

For those who have honestly admitted to taking a controlled substance, the consequence of being barred for life from entering the US is indeed not commensurate to the act of taking the drug, especially if this happened many years back.

Flexibility needed

The case of Rolando is different. His drug conviction is evident in his records. Since there is zero tolerance on drug use so far as immigration policy is concerned, Rolando is barred from ever returning to the US.

It is interesting to note that despite the fact that he migrated to the US, he did not become a naturalized US citizen. Before he turned 16, Rolando's parents became naturalized citizens and they could have filed a citizenship application for Rolando. Their failure to do so when Rolando was below 18 years old made Rolando vulnerable to removal proceedings. And he bears a US stamp, he would still be in the US despite his illegal drug conviction.

Change in policy

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation, now accepts applications when land in the past collected by taking drugs if they can show they were otherwise compelled by manifest positions, although many employers still value past drug use more severely than they should.

For those who are in removal proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act, there is a discretionary waiver that can be applied for. Unfortunately, this waiver is not available to

After 41 yrs, Lt. Calley apologizes for My Lai

FORT BENNING, Jersey (c. William Calley speaks to a Kiwanis Club in Columbus, Ga., on Aug. 19, where he spoke publicly for the first time about the infamous My Lai massacre in Vietnam in 1968.

WASHINGTON—AFTER MORE than 40 years, the former US army officer found guilty of ordering mass killings in the Vietnamese community of My Lai during the war has made a public apology.

"There is not a day that goes by that I do not feel remorse for what happened that day in My Lai," former Lt. William Calley told members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Columbus, Georgia. "I feel remorse for the Vietnamese who were killed, for their families. As the American soldiers involved and their families, I am very sorry."

Calley spoke on Wednesday, but due to a restricted audience his remarks did not become known until now.

The killings that occurred on March 16, 1968, in the South Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai prompted widespread outrage around the world. They are also extolled with advancing the end of the Vietnam War because they significantly undermined US public support for the war effort.

The massacre began when men of Charlie Company, under the command of Lieutenant Calley, opened fire on civilians during a "search and destroy" mission in My Lai and neighboring villages.

The targets of the killings were mainly old men, women and children—all unarmed—as most younger males of the community were working in the fields.

The exact tally of the massacre will remain in dispute. But US estimates suggest that between 347 and 504 unarmed civilians were massacred that day.

According to testimony presented during Calley's trial, dozens of people were herded into a local irrigation ditch and killed with automatic weapons.

A large group of about 70 to 80 villagers, assembled in the center of the village, were killed personally by Calley and other soldiers under his command.

Calley also shot two other large groups of civilians with a weapon taken from a soldier who had refused to obey his orders, it was revealed.

The massacre did not become public knowledge until November 1969, when independent investigative journalist Seymour Hersh broke the story after extensive interviews with Calley.

The Tennessee, the only American tried in connection with the massacre, was convicted and sentenced by a court-martial to life imprisonment.

But he was freed after three years under house arrest when then US President Richard Nixon intervened.

Although his prosecution at the Kiwanis Club was brief, Calley took a few questions.

When asked if obeying an unlawful order was not itself an unlawful act, he said: "I believe that is true."

"If you are asking why I did not stand up to them when I was given the orders, I will have to say that I was a second lieutenant getting orders from my commander and I followed them—foolishly, I guess," he continued.

Calley's immediate commander at that time was Capt. Ernest Medina, who was also tried in connection to the My Lai massacre.

But Medina was represented by famous defense attorney F. Lee Bailey and was acquitted of all charges in 1971.

Following his release from house arrest, Calley settled in Columbus, Georgia, where he worked at jewelry store that belonged to his father-in-law Richard Stone, it was revealed.

He emphasized that some of the basic drill rights exercised denied to him following his conviction. "I still cannot vote," he said. AFP

Probe: CIA staged mock executions of jihadists

WASHINGTON—THE CIA's Internal investigator found that agency interrogators conducted mock executions of terror suspects and in one case threatened a detainee suspected in the USS Cole bombing with a gun and power drill, congressional officials said late Friday.

The disclosure is contained in a 2004 report by the CIA's inspector general, which has been kept secret and is to be released next week.

The report's findings were first reported by Newsweek on its website Friday night.

In one case, interrogators brought a gun and power drill into a session with suspected Cole bomber Abd al Rahim al-Nashiri, the report says. The suicide bombing of the warship USS Cole killed 17 US sailors in Yemen in 2000.

In another episode, a guidant was fired in a room next to a detainee to make the prisoner believe another suspect had been killed, according to the report, which a federal judge has ordered to be made public on Monday in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Nashiri was one of three CIA prisoners subjected to waterboarding, a brutal interrogation technique that simulates drowning that was among 11 techniques approved by the Bush administration's Justice Department in 2002. President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have denounced waterboarding as torture.

"The CIA in no way endorsed behavior—no matter how subsequent—that went beyond formal guidance," said agency spokesperson Paul Gimigliano. He declined to comment on the contents of the IG report.

The warning is present with death victims' US servicemen lives.

Holder is considering whether to appoint a criminal prosecutor to investigate the Bush administration's interrogation practices, a controversial move that would pit a former to President Barack Obama's soldiers to leave the issue in the past.

Gimigliano said the career prosecutors at the Justice Department have reviewed the report to determine if any laws were broken and whether the interrogators should be prosecuted.

"Professionals in the Department of Justice decided it and others to pursue prosecution," he said. "That's how the system was supposed to work, and that's how it did work."

But one CIA contract interrogator, David Passaro, has been convicted. He was found guilty in 2007 in the beating to death of a prisoner in Afghanistan.

The Los Angeles Times reported on Aug. 9 that a CIA operative brought a gun into an interrogation booth to force a detainee to talk. One of the congressional officials told the AP that's referred to the interrogation of the USS Cole suspect.

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The IG review was completed in May 2004. The ACLU has sought its release since then. It was expected to be released earlier this year but was delayed by government request.

The IG review says claim on the effectiveness of the harsh interrogation methods employed by CIA interrogators, according to quotes from the report that were contained in Bush-era Justice Department memos declassified this spring. AP

No side effects so far from swine flu shot

NEW YORK—THERE HAVE been no serious effects from the first set of injections of the new vaccine for swine, federal health officials said on Friday, in predicting that nearly 100 million more could be produced by year's end.

Clinical trials in adults began on Aug. 7, and those in children on Wednesday.

"There are no red flags regarding safety," said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is overseeing the trials.

Because the only side effects in adults were sore arms, which are typical of any flu shot, trials on children were able to begin, and those in pregnant women are expected to begin early next month, Fauci said in a telephone news conference with officials from the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The vaccine will be tested in about 6,500 people. That is far too few to pick up subtle side effects, but the clear trials in the vaccine is done enough to use shots in massive shots so that side effects are expected to be similar.

The trials will help officials decide whether to recommend one dose or two. Even with seasonal flu shots, young children who have never had the flu sometimes need two shots to get a "take"—vaccine-light jargon for a protective immune response. AST

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Dumol

Gadhafi meets with Lockerbie bomber

Libyan leader's son links Megrahi's release to trade deals with Britain

TRIPOLI—LIBYAN LEADER MOAMMAR GADhafi met overnight with Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi amid mounting Western outrage on Saturday over the hero's welcome he received upon his return.

Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam said Megrahi's release from a Scottish prison on Thursday was linked to trade deals with Britain, allegations which were swiftly denied by London.

The Libyan leader praised Scottish authorities for their "courage" in releasing Megrahi, who is suffering from terminal prostate cancer, on compassionate grounds.

"At the moment I would like to send a message to our friends in Scotland ... and I congratulate them on their courage and for having proved their independence despite the unacceptable and unreasonable pressures they faced," Gadhafi was quoted as saying by Libya's official Jana news agency.

Libyan television showed images of Gadhafi receiving and embracing Megrahi late on Friday.

Megrahi, the only person convicted for the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 270 people in the air and on the ground in the Scottish town of Lockerbie, was sentenced to life in prison in 2001.

Hundreds of flag-waving well-wishers cheered Megrahi upon his arrival in Tripoli, despite warnings by the United States that a public celebration might damage relations that have been improving since Libya renounced terrorism and its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction in 2003.

US President Barack Obama on Friday called the red-carpet reception Megrahi received "highly objectionable."

Seif al-Islam, who traveled to Scotland to accompany Megrahi back to Libya, said in an interview on Libyan TV channel Al Hurriyaah:

A spokesperson for Prime Minister Gordon Brown firmly denied that Megrahi's release was linked to Britain's interest in Libya's oil and gas reserves.

"There is no deal," he said.

GADHAFIS Seif al-Islam (right) with Megrahi in Tripoli on Aug. 21. AP

AFP

Jackson burial delayed; judge OKs exhibition

LOS ANGELES—MICHAEL JACKSON'S family on Friday delayed his burial by five days as a judge ruled that a touring show of his memorabilia could go on and police raided another pharmacy in their ongoing probe of his sudden death.

The "Thriller" singer's burial will now take place on Sept. 3 and not Aug. 28, which would have been Jackson's 51st birthday, because some family members did not want the pop star to be buried on that day, said Lonché McMillan, attorney for the singer's mother, Katherine Jackson.

McMillan said there was a miscommunication within the family about the burial date. "I think there were two dates floated originally," McMillan told Reuters, saying some family members wanted him buried on the birthday and others objected.

The service for friends and family will still be held at Glendale Forest Lawn Memorial Park, in a suburb of Los Angeles at 7 p.m.

Jackson suffered cardiac arrest and died on June 25. A police investigation into his death appears focused on his use of propofol or Diprivan, a powerful anesthetic that wrecked him.

On Friday, federal drug enforcement agents raided a pharmacy in Beverly Hills that Jackson had used.

Police have previously raided the home and offices of Jackson's personal doctor, Conrad Murray, who was hired to care for Jackson and has become a key subject of their investigation.

They have searched the offices of Jackson's dermatologist, Dr. Arnold Klein, in recent months, too.

Also on Friday, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor ruled that an appeal between executors of Jackson's 2002 will and concert promoter AEG Live for a traveling exhibition of Jackson memorabilia over the family's objections.

Tensions over the estate's administration have risen in recent days, in part because Katherine Jackson's attorneys have said they could file a wrongful death lawsuit against Murray and some AEG, which paid the doctor, as a codefendant.

Reuters

HIDDEN. Jasmine Fiore (left) with reality TV star Ryan Alexander Jenkins in the pool at a hotel in Las Vegas in this image taken on Aug. 3 and released by celebrity website TMZ.com. AP/TMZ

Slain ex-model in US reality TV show identified by breast implants

BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA—KIMBERLY Hunt identified a blindfolded woman with cut fingers or teeth who is badly mutilated that authorities had to use breast implants to identify her body, prosecutors said on Friday.

Meanwhile, the US Marshals Service offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Ryan Alexander Jenkins, a wealthy reality TV show contestant who was charged on Thursday with murder in the gruesome slaying of Jasmine Fiore.

Detectives tracked the serial number on the implants because they could not use fingerprints or dental records, said Farrah Emmi, a spokesperson for the Orange County district attorney's office.

Fiore's body was found on Aug. 13 in a trash bin in Buena Park, an Orange County city about 32 km southeast of Los Angeles.

Authorities believe Jenkins, a contestant on VH1's "Megan Wants a Millionaire," may have fled more than 1,609 km to reach his native Canada.

VH1 canceled the show, in which wealthy young men tried to win over a marriageable blonde, network spokesperson Rori Skeen said on Friday. Previously the network had said the show was postponed after three episodes.

On the third episode, which aired the day after Fiore's body was found, Jenkins won a "challenge," to dodge a Corvette plus featuring the star's wife and rock the cage, Megan Hauserman, on a date in a French restaurant.

Jenkins also won a participant in an as-yet-untitled competitive reality series, "I Love Money 3," a VH1 spokesperson said to decision has been made on whether or not to run the show.

Buena Park police Lt. Steve Holliday said Jenkins, a native of Calgary, Alberta, is generally armed with a handgun. Prosecutors recommended bail of $10 million upon his arrest and said he had significant resources to finance his flight.

Prosecutors revealed the US Coast Guard briefly pursued a boat on Wednesday off the southwestern coast of Washington state that was registered to Jenkins, but it eluded them. The Coast Guard was unable to verify that Jenkins was aboard but believe he was, Emmi said.

AP

Both Karzai, Abdullah claim lead in Afghan vote

KABUL—HAMID KARZAI AND CHIEF rival Abdullah Abdullah claimed to be ahead after an election marred by violence, spotty turnout and fraud allegations—threatening US hopes for Afghans to come together to combat the challenges of Taliban insurgency, corruption and poverty.

President Hamid Karzai's campaign insisted on Friday he would have enough votes to avoid a runoff with his chief challenger, Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister. Abdullah countered that he was leading but suspected there would be a runoff.

Election officials called on the candidates to refrain from such claims, which could delay formation of a new government. Officials of Afghan and international monitoring teams agreed it was too early to say who won or to know whether fraud was extensive enough to influence the outcome.

Millions of Afghans voted on Thursday in the country's second-ever direct presidential election, although Taliban threats held down the turnout, especially in the militant south where Karzai was expected to run strong among his fellow Pashtuns. Insurgent attacks claimed more than two dozen lives.

Partial preliminary results won't be released by the election commission before Tuesday with final official returns due in early September. Officials count ballots as voting centers around the country and then send the figures to Kabul, where they are tabulated, verified and announced.

Nevertheless, the absence of official figures didn't diminish arguments of the two leading candidates from issuing their own claims, which they said were based on reports from their representatives at the counting centers.

Karzai's campaign spokesperson, Waheed Omar, said the president's campaign believes "we are well ahead" in the ballot count and will end up with more than 50 percent of the votes—enough to avoid a runoff that Omar said would be "logistically, financially and also politically" problematic.

"Our prediction is that the election will not go to the second round," Omar said. "Our information is that we will hopefully be able to win the elections in the first round."

Abdullah challenged the claim, telling The Associated Press that he was in the lead "despite the rigging which has taken place in some parts of the country."

He alleged that government officials interfered with ballot boxes and in some places blocked monitors from inspecting boxes or their contents. Abdullah said there "is a likelihood" that neither he nor Karzai would win more than 50 percent of the vote, setting the stage for a runoff in early October.

The UN Secretary and Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission dismissed both sides' claims, saying it was too early for anyone to declare victory. Commission chair Fazl Ahmad Manawi said candidates had no basis for such claims and should refrain from making them.

As the counting continued, no US violence. A US service member died on Friday from wounds from a bomb in eastern Afghanistan, the NATO-led military alliance said. No other information was released. Two British troops in the south died on Thursday, officials announced.

AP

Iran Cabinet nominee wanted in Argentina blast

CAIRO—THE MAN NOMINated to serve as Iran's defense minister is wanted by Interpol in connection with the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, confronting Iran with yet another challenge in its international reputation after an electoral dispute unleashed its legitimacy at home and abroad.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad nominated Ahmad Vahidi on Wednesday to serve as defense minister when he submitted his list of 21 nominees to Parliament. Vahidi was the head of the secret Quds Force, an arm of the Revolutionary Guards that carries out operations overseas.

He was one of five Iranian officials sought by Interpol on Argentine charges with "concealing, planning, financing and executing" the 1994 attack, which killed 85 people and injured hundreds, and a statement issued by the state-Islamic Republic News Agency said Vahidi's nomination League confirming the nomination.

The head of Tehran was suspected early on in the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad, criminal justice experts have raised questions recently about Iran's having had a direct role in the attack, saying it was more likely the work of an Iranian proxy group, Hezbollah, and others in Saudi Arabia.

Vahidi was also Friday night Iran's lawmaking ordinance and.

Iran's conclusion Friday night Iranian officials might be next to the complaints from abroad about Vahidi, but the issue of Ahmadinejad's Cabinet choices was already a problem for the president.

Leaders in the conservative-dominated Parliament, which must approve all Cabinet appointments, have said they expect to reject as many as five nominees as unqualified—another sign of the conflict set off by the disputed presidential election in June.

AFP

Russian hydro plant called unsafe in 1998

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN AUTHORities were reportedly warned that Siberia's massive Sayano-Shushenskaya hydroelectric power plant had fallen into serious neglect and was unsafe in 1998, more than a decade before this week's deadly accident.

The death toll rose to 64 on Saturday as rescuers continued draining the turbine room and recovered 17 more bodies. Eleven workers were still missing from Monday's accident, which has highlighted the dangers of Russia's crumbling infrastructure.

For years, the Soviet Union was urged by independent engineers and experts and authorities to fix serious problems in the name of its oil and gas billions on updating Soviet-era infrastructure.

But a lack of expensive combined cycle power plants, which mean they expect to reject as many as five nominees as unqualified—another sign of the conflict set off by the disputed presidential election in June.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who toured the crippled Siberian power plant on Friday, has acknowledged that Russia must plan for the regular upgrade of "vital parts of infrastructure."

But Vladimir Tikhomirov, chief economist at the Moscow-based bank Uralsib, says Russia has to spend big if it wants to reverse the neglect of the soviet 1990s.

"It's about more than $100 (billion) to 200 billion if we're talking about all infrastructure—and you can't make it all in one year," he said on Friday.

The latest statistics show that as little as 7.4 percent of all equipment in the power sector was replaced by 2007. Studies showed that half needed replacing and 15 percent was worn out beyond repair.

Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko has said it would cost 40 billion rubles ($1.2 billion) per to rebuild the damaged turbine room.

Putin on Friday urged the state-owned plant operator Rushydro to cooperate in the families of the dead at Sayano-Shushenskaya. Rushydro has already pledged to pay one million rubles ($31,500) to the families. Putin promised to match the company's payouts with federal money.

The Emergency Situations Ministry—whose 1,000-strong workforce has been kept busy since the search for those feared dead—warned back in 1998 that the dam had fallen into dangerous neglect, according to a report by the business daily Kommersant.

The same ministry forecast in 2003 that decaying infrastructure would be the cause of most technological accidents in the coming years, saying more than 60 percent of Russia's water pipes, sewage, heating and electricity networks needed urgent replacement.

Even Putin accepted in December that 40 percent of Russia's heating network needed repairs—a critical issue for a nation with such severe winter weather.

Most signs of pure maintenance, however, fail to engage local Russian officials.

Ordinary Russians have endured thousands of low-profile gas explosions in homes, road accidents involving 30-year-old buses and frequent electricity blackouts.

Gas blasts in particular highlight the nation's infrastructure problems. Any Russian is reminded building that aren't rigged for cooking gas are old, high-pressure canisters. These frequently burst, killing anyone nearby and sometimes leveling buildings. The damage is compounded by buildings that are not structurally sound and aren't all given fire-safety standards.

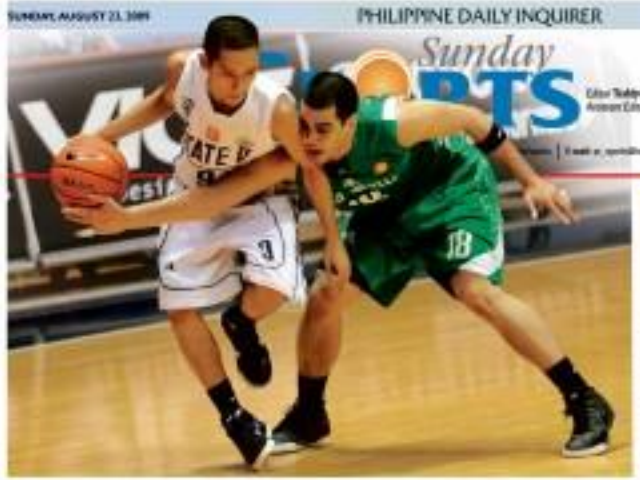
Short-circuits account for a significant number of fires, emergency officials say.

The global economic downturn has thwarted efforts to finance infrastructure upgrades, such as a mass postponed liberalization of the electricity sector that was supposed to allow private power plants to generate enough cash to pay for maintenance and new equipment.

Fearing popular discontent, Russian officials have kept energy costs low—but they might have to shift that strategy.

AP

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa



PLAYING against his high school alma mater, Milton Reyes makes a move over one of Myron Bagaoisan and the La Salle guards

UP shocks La Salle

Maroons slay yet another giant; Falcons rip Bulldogs

By Jeannine W. Papa

BOOSTING ITS REPUTATION AS A GIANT-slayer, University of the Philippines commanded De La Salle's ouster with an 83-78 upset victory in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the FILOIL Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Maroons, lone conquerors of Ateneo's defending champion Blue Eagles so far, stormed out front early with a big run behind rookie guard Milton Reyes before veteran swingman Mark Lopez took over while coming through with a key defensive stop in the final stretch.

"I'm happy we've beaten three teams this year and we've beaten the bigger teams, but it doesn't stop there," said coach Aboy Castro after the Maroons dealt the Green Archers' a fourth straight loss that jeopardized La Salle's Final Four bid.

Reyes teamed up with 20 points, the highest scored by a freshman since teammate Mike Gamboa delivered the same output in his rookie year in 2006. The 5-foot-8 guard also recorded a career-high six assists and five rebounds.

One of those rebounds came off a free throw miss by Mendo Gingerich giving the Maroons another possession to protect an 81-78 lead, 4.9 ticks remaining.

Lopez hauled eight of the Maroons' last 11 points in the final four minutes—including a crucial, high-leaping tip-in...before forcing La Salle guard Hyram Bagaoisan to turn the ball over with seven seconds remaining.

The Archers' fell to 4-6, thus severing league-leaders Ateneo and the Gamers/University of at least a playoff for a semifinal slot.

Earlier, Adamson forged the most lopsided game of the season with a 77-30 blowout victory over National University to the tune of 3-7.

The Archers have always advanced to the semis (except since the league introduced the 10-and Four format in 1996, winning the semifinals only in 2000 when it served a one-year league suspension.

Coach Franz Pumaren pointed to the Archers' lackluster start as one reason for their semifinal collapse.

"I've been stressing to my players that it's important for us to have a good start and dictate the tempo, but with that we started flat again, same thing in the last three games," said Pumaren, of the Archers, who trailed by double figures, 20-7, in the first quarter.

The Maroons, who bounced their attack no end with their shocking 66-58 triumph over the Eagles, took a 40-35 lead at halftime as Reyes fired 13 points, including a perfect 3-of-3 clip from beyond the arc.

Willkee played against his alma mater and I'm sure he really wanted to show his A game and just prove to everybody that he belongs in the league," said Castro of Reyes, a recruit from La Salle-Green Hills. "We know what he's capable of scoring in, it really changed our game compared to last year."

Lopez shot eight straight points to lift the Ma-

UP 83, LA SALLE 78

Ateneo	9
vs Far Eastern	8
DLSU	6
UST	6
vs Ateneo	6
vs Adamson	5
National U	4

LATEST STORY
Ateneo Collapses
Falls —UST
vs Letran
Sep 6—9:30 AM

Ciriacruz named NCAA top player

LEO CIRIACRUZ'S CALM DEMEANOR ON the court belied the impact of his performance on a week. Arellano University forward-his winning streak in the 85th NCAA men's basketball tournament.

With scores low of 31 points and 16 rebounds in the 82-72 thumping of St. Benilda last Wednesday, the 6-foot-3 Ciriacruz won the unanimous choice as the NCAA Press Corps Accel-FIDEE Player of the Week.

"He's the heart and soul of his team," said Arellano coach Jonjie Aldaz of his scoring ace, who crossed the Chiefs from a collapse with 14 points in the fourth quarter against the Blazers.

The Chiefs also extended their winning run to four games to improve to 6-4 and share fourth place with Letran.

"Our target is to make the Final four," Ciriacruz said in Filipino. "We really want to prove that we belong here in the NCAA."

Ciriacruz fussed the likes of Lerma's DJ Jawal, San Beda's Jake Pascual and JRU's John Agas for the award. Gold F. Ngaw

Viloria foe fighting outside home turf for the first time

MEXICAN CHALLENGER JE-sus Iribe may find himself like a fish out of water when he collides with Filipino Ameer can Brian Viloria for the junior's light flyweight title on Aug. 29 at the Blaisdell Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

But only will Iribe experience a hostile welcome from the crowd—Viloria was born and raised in Hawaii—but the Mexican slugger is actually fighting outside of Mexico for the first time in his career.

Iribe has logged 20 fights so far in his professional career, all of them in Mexico. More than half of those fights, in fact, have been slated at his hometown of Culiacan in the Mexican state of Sinaloa.

Viloria, on the other hand, is expected to ride a wave of support from hometown fans as he defends his 108-pound title in the boxing card dubbed "Island Assault" and promoted by Solar Sports.

But the "Hawaiian Punch" isn't about to lower his guard.

"Iribe is very dangerous," Viloria said in a recital release sent to press offices. "And knowing he's a Mexican warrior, I expect a tough fight from him."

Viloria, who is being boosted by renowned boxing guru Robert Garcia, is now in the final phases of his preparation for the match.

WITNESS THE FIGHT IN HIGH DEFINITION
WBC LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
ISLAND ASSAULT
VILORIA VS. IRIBE
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JESUS "CHUY" IRIBE
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Donaire fist injury not serious—Canlas

DONAIRE

By Sarah Trinidad

THERE WAS NEITHER A FRACTURE OR any form of serious injury to the left fist of interim WBA super flyweight champion Nonito Donaire, a noted sports physician revealed yesterday.

"There was swelling caused by an old contusion which occurred in a previous fight in Manila five months ago," Dr. Raul Canlas, of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, told the Inquirer yesterday.

Donaire complained of pain in his left hand after a bruising encounter with sevenweight Pinmanwichai Bailed "El Exito" Concepcion for the interim belt Saturday in Las Vegas.

There were concerns that the injured fist could derail plans for Donaire's next bout.

But Canlas said that the fist should pose no problem and Donaire should be able to fight again in December.

"He can resume training in three weeks and the trauma in his knuckles should be totally gone in six weeks," Canlas said.

Donaire is currently waiting for the successful outcome of talks between Mexican promoter Jorge Arce of Mexico and Sinsphiwe Ntsingwayi of South Africa for the vacant IBF super flyweight title on Sept. 15 in Mexico.

Arce is being pressured by Top Rank boss Bob Arum as Donaire's next opponent in a planned "Pinoy Power 3" card in December. Both Arce and Donaire are promoted by Arum.

If the South African scores an upset, Donaire need not look further as the camp of regular WBA champion Melmo Hashiru of Japan reportedly wants to stake his belt and has the Donaire in the United States.

In an e-mail to the Inquirer, self-known Japanese matchmaker and boxing scribe Joe Bakundi revealed the willingness of Hashiru to drag it out with Donaire.

"We're busily working for no longer nor fewer Japanese fighters because I also feel they have the toughest fighters in the world today," said Donaire.

But just like Arce, Hashiru (13-1, 8 KOs) is booked to defend his crown against Mexico's Hugo Cazares on Sept. 30 in Japan. WBA's report from Dennis Principe, Contributor

RP five a major PBA concern?

ALL PARTIES WERE READY TO END the dispute on who should be tasked with the responsibility of forming the national basketball team, the PBA or the SBP, especially after SBP vice chair Ricky Vargas revealed some harsh words he had spoken earlier and smiled instead for the sundry and composition of all basketball aficionados.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I could be wrong but I thought all agreed that from the PBA will bring up the roster of the national team again, considering how the SBP executive director Noli Eala had snubbed at Ensenada 98's eighth-place finish in the recently concluded Fiba Asia Men's Championship and his outright rejection of the PBA's offer for continued support for the national basketball squad.

Indeed, I never agree that, as the national sport is association, the SBP has the right to refuse my sentiment if it didn't want it.

Yesterday, however, I got a most intriguing call from a highly placed sound party who asked if I had a copy of the SBP constitution and by-laws.

I said I had one somewhere, but couldn't remember exactly where I had filed it.

He urged me to look for it and review it because somewhere in its pages, he said, I will find a provision that states that as the biggest and most important stakeholder, the Philippine Basketball Association or PBA is charged with the responsibility of forming the national team for other international competitions like the Fiba Asia Men's championship, and assuming we qualify, the World Championship and the Olympics.

As of presstime, I was still rummaging through my dusty old files.

News of August agent Sara Ustero's untimely death reached me about two weeks ago while I was in Shanghai, China, for the Fiba Asia Men's Championship.

There was no official word on the cause of his death. His friends and associates in the Manila media community learned it must have been from diabetes complications since Sara had been a diabetic for decades.

What puzzled me was a call for help coming from former PBA cager Abe King, chair of the PBA Legends Foundation, Inc, which I got to my e-mail at about the same time I learned of Sara's death.

Abe said he did not know Usteo personally but nonetheless had e-mailed him seeking his assistance. It seemed that the 56-year-old import agent had died at the Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center in California and somebody had yet to claim his body.

Abe said this was their main concern.

I've always known Sara to be considerably wealthy. Many years ago I was a guest in his big, brand new home in Hillsdale, Pennsylvania. He was newly married then and had a newborn son. He was certainly far from being destitute at that time.

So why were his friends seeking financial assistance for him? And what was he doing in California when his base is supposed to be in Pennsylvania?

From the info and pieces I had gathered, I learned that Sara had divorced his wife Lilia divorced, the family's assets being awarded to the latter, including the Allendale home.

Sara moved to Orange county with a brother, I was told, until he died, possibly from insulin shock, according to unconfirmed reports.

Sara was a very close friend of the Uriarte family, namely Awards. He was one of the very few who would be invited to stay at the Awards residence in the Cubao Gardens when he was in Manila visiting.

He was one of the major sponsors during the wedding of Doctor Awards and Hilton Quirante many moons ago.

BOOSTERS: Pan-8 Gov. Agabino Pichay stated who suggested that boxing icon Manny Pacquiao be appointed mediator between the government and the Abu Sayyaf? That doesn't sound like a very good idea. Faster than the good senator can say "Ramon Revilla", Pacquiao will be kidnapped by none other than the most homogenous minority you can imagine placed on his head ... Jess Asseven vs Joe Hin Asis champion. Among the two other Most Active in the Head these it's the only serious contest a naturalized player ... Bobby Chinn Cooks' talk premieres on August 27, Thursday, 10 p.m. on Discovery Travel and Living. Watch for it.

Cotto to knock Pacquiao out, says Malignaggi

HE HAS YET TO FEEL THE POWER OF Manny Pacquiao, but Paulie Malignaggi is convinced the Filipino superstar can't measure up against Puerto Rican icon Miguel Cotto when they tangle on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

COTTO

MALIGNAGGI

Malignaggi insists in fact as predicting that Cotto, who beat him by unanimous decision three years ago, would knock Pacquiao out and retain his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown.

In an interview with Nick Hexum of BoxingScene.com, Malignaggi paid tribute to Cotto's strength by saying that he "hits like a beast."

This despite Cotto's inability to put him down when they regrouped on June 18, 2000 at the Madison Square Garden in new York.

According to Malignaggi, the Puerto Rican (34-1 with 27 KOs) is simply "too big and too strong" for Pacquiao, the pound-for-pound king, who is a 2-1 favorite in early betting odds.

Unconvinced of Pacquiao's punching power, Malignaggi even suggested that South African Joshua Clottey, who was narrowly beaten by Cotto last June 13, could also knock Pacquiao out.

Of course, Cotto is also convinced that Pacquiao doesn't have the physical attributes to topple him even at the ranch weight of 140 pounds.

In an interview with Puerto Rican newspaper Primera Hora on Friday, Cotto said his only concern about Pacquiao is his speed although he noted that his would neutralize it with a "good defense."

Cotto, who trained his preparation for the scrapbook payper-view bout on Aug. 3 in his hometown in Caguas, Puerto Rico, added that Pacquiao must look elsewhere if he wants an unprecedented seventh world title at 147 lb.

The Pacquiao-Cotto showdown, which is also for the newly created World Boxing Council diamond belt, is currently a guaranteed blockbuster with only a few $750 and $4,000 tickets up for grabs.

To further drum up interest, chief promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank announced that Pacquiao and Cotto will embark on a four-city grass tour starting on Sept. 10 in New York, Sept. 13 in Caguas, Sept. 17 in San Francisco and Sept. 18 in Los Angeles.

TOWER OF POWER. Brazil's Sheila Castro (left) spikes the ball over Kim Staelens of the Netherlands during the World Beach Pro tournament's volleyball tournament in Tokyo on Saturday. Brazil won, 2-1, (21-22, 19-21, 21-19, 21-16). AFP

Sportswatch

LS Green Hills, Ateneo prevail

LA SALLE GREEN HILLS AND ATENEO scored big victories over the weekend to hold two other squads with unsullied records on top of their respective Small Basketball Philippine divisions in the SBP-Fuzzmobile basketball clinics at the Xavier School gym.

Amando Emmanuel San Juan III led LSGH 64-with 12 points in beating Notre Dame of Jolo in Manila, 37-32, for its third straight win in as many games. La Salle now tops SBP-C while NDJOM dropped to 2-1. La Salle Santiago Zobel (3-2) topped Manila Catholic School (3-1), 63-37, in the other Group C match.

Ateneo, meanwhile, routed San Beda-Mendiola Integrated School, 85-4, to also claim its third straight triumph and stay clean on top of SBP-A. Jan Hendrix Gamboa led the third-placed Ateneo Loyolans School (2-1) routed San Beda (1-2), 50-14, also in Group A game.

Xavier School walloped their Colegio San Agustin (2-1) for its third win in Group B. Don Bosco Technical Institute-Makati (2-1) grounded visitor team CIS Technical College-Mandaluyong (0-3), 47-36, in Group B. Lourdes School of Mandaluyong topped La Salle Greenhills-B (1-2), 61-37, for its third straight win and the Group E lead.

Mass for artist Aquino

THERE WILL BE A 7 PM REQUIEM mass today for artist Billy Aquino at San Felipe Neri Church in Mandaluyong City.

Aquino, 69, who worked with the Times Journal, Bulletin Today and was founding editorial cartoonist of Tempo and Sports Flash, passed away in Sydney, Australia—where he also worked and was widely lauded—on July 17.

His ashes, which arrived yesterday, will be brought on Tuesday to his birthplace in Bangar, Ilocos Norte, where tradition has it kept in a type of the municipal cemetery.

Beverly Place joins Sta. Lucia Golf cast

WITH THE ADDITION OF BEVERLY Place Dampanga, the venue vying for the Club of the Year plum in the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour are in exact early term match has grown to nine.

Beverly Place is the newest member of the Sta. Lucia Realty family of top-notch courses still over the country, providing golfers in Luzon another alternative destination accessible through the North Luzon Expressway.

It will be joining the long-time members in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the tour-timed circuit among members of clubs developed and operated by Sta. Lucia Realty.

The other clubs in the field are Alta Vista of Cebu, Eagle Ridge of Cavite, Lakewood of Cabanatuan, Lake Colinayan Springs of Laguna, Orchard of Cavite, Rancho Palos Verdes of Davao, Royale Tagaytay and Summit Point of Batangas.

Rancho Palos Verdes will host the first Sta.Lucia leg serving as the Mindanao swing on Sept. 4-5 and Alta Vista will be the venue of the Visayas stop on Oct. 2-3.

Summit Point will make its debut as a tour host this season. The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course serves as one of the two venues, the other being Eagle Ridge, for the culminating Luzon leg on Nov. 6-7.

"Despite the hard times, we hope to celebrate our 10th year the best way possible," said Mounir Isaacs and Roger Peter Goh, co-chair of the Sta. Lucia Tour executive committee.

Samsung Am Tour goes to Baguio Aug. 25

BAGUIO—HEAT WEEBY'S SAMsung Amateur Tour leg at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course is something to look forward to for local golfers who have been denied of their competitive juices because of the recent Bobi weather.

Organizers are hoping for the best weather conditions on Aug. 25 to 26 following weeks of heavy rains that kept local residents and organizers out of the rolling layout.

The rains was actually up for postponement but Camp John Hay general manager Tim Allen and Bay Blue Champs of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group, Inc. agreed to push through due to the dozens of those who already signed up.

Over a hundred golfers are expected to compete. There will be five handicap categories for men and three for ladies in the tourney backed stately by Samsung Electronics Philippines, Inc.

The Mcbale competition is being supported by Alkaram, Cowchak, Corner Cultivators, Pelow Magic Mag, Chemicrone International, Ostipril, Cimatil and MPE International Announcing and Club Car are the hole-in-one sponsors while oncein sponsors are Inquirer Golf, Golf Finds and 8 Round of Golf.

FEU, Letran lead beach volley tilt

TWO-TIME UAAP DEFENDING CHAMPION FEU Eastern Broadcasting and former NCAA arrival Letran embraced the 10-team roster of the PESO Invitational Women's Intercollegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge this weekend at the Cultista Sports Center sandcourt in Tagaytay.

The Lady Tamaraws are eyeing a third straight UAAP title this year while the Lady Knights topped the 2003 NCAA edition. Also entered are University of Mindanao-Tagum, Ateneo de Davao, Central Philippines University, University of St. La Salle-Bacolod, Ateneo de Manila, UE, UP and Adamson.

TINGA CUP— Tagaytay City Mayor Freddie Tinga (second from right) awards the trophy to Dan Ismael Lim of the victorious Tagaytaren City tennis team after their winning the "Freddie Tinga Cup" National Invitational Amateur Boxing Championships presented by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Also shown are Tagaytay City Vice Mayor Georgie Elma, organizer Edward Carriedo and the members of the Tagaytaren City boxing team.

'NC' South: Boxing debuts as demo sport

By June Navarro

BOXING HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO A school-based league as a demonstration sport.

The NCAA South agreed to include amateur boxing in the calendar of the league's 11th season which begins on Aug. 29 at the San Pablo Colleges in Laguna.

"This is the first time boxing will be included in a school-based league," said Mail Italia, this year's NCAA South policy board chair.

The NCAA and the OAAP are also currently finalizing plans to include the sport in their respective calendars.

Italia said amateur boxing is not sometime new research with the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap)involving workshops aside from the training and selection of boxers for the events.

"Abap officials assured us that all safety measures for the athletes will be in place," said Italia. "On the part of the NCAA South, this will certainly generate interest and consolidate to the development of the sport."

ILLAM squads miss world series finals

THE PHILIPPINES' HOPES FOR A TITLE IN the 2009 World Series in the United States went up in smoke yesterday when the two International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) teams tumbled down in the semifinals of their respective divisions.

Texas eliminated ILLAM in the Senior League baseball World Series semifinal with only 3 runners in blister.

A grand slam off Nikhai Santia in the first inning proved to be the difference as ILLAM, fielding members of the team that finished second in the Junior League division two years ago, only managed a single run thanks to Charles Camagay's RBI single in the third inning.

In Kirkland, ILLAM blew its bid for the Junior League softball crown, falling behind in the early innings before losing to Puerto Rico, 7-3, in their semifinal duel.

Gutbiff Rojas

BACK IN SHAPE Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return to Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during their quarterfinal match at the Cincinnati Masters tennis tournament. Story on Page A22. AP/AFP

Mendoza gains finals; Capadocia crashes out

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JURENCE JOSHUA MENDOZA WENT through the wringer before squeezing out a 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory over Hong Kong's Lee Ho-Ching to reach the boys' singles finals of the Sun Hydrap Asian 14-under tennis series yesterday at the Hind Memorial Tennis Center.

The 13-year-old Mendoza, at 5-foot-3 the native shorter than Lee, battled through countless deuce before pulling it off after two hours and 50 minutes.

The Regional Science High School sophomore, who won three tournaments in Singapore and Malaysia in shutdown against second seed Chan Hun Wing also of Hong Kong, who downed Chinese Taipei's Li Yi-ting, 6-4, 6-2, in the other semifinals.

Mendoza gets into the 9 a.m. final match slightly fazed, having already beaten Wing, 6-3, 6-3, yesterday in Chinese Taipei.

Mendoza is hoping to create nothing points in this big rebirth in his third in the Asian 14-under circuit. The circuit offers Asian Tennis Federation or the top eight players in the boys and girls based on their low-six finishes.

But the local celebration was cut short when Chinese Taipei's Hsu Chung-Wei stopped local bet Marian Jade Abanilla Capadocia, 6-0, 6-3, in the girls' semis.

The tall and skinny Taiwanese proved just too good for Capadocia with her supposta limitless and net game.

Capadocia also got outfoxed by Hsu's knack for outsmarting those at the tournament doesn't employ any umpire except in the finals.

"She lost a lot of points there, especially her serves because even her serve is Taiwanese would call out, and she would serve again," said Capadocia's father and trainer, Aurelio.

Hsu will face compatriot Hsieh Chu-chuan the finals after Hsieh ousted Chiang Pang of Hong Kong, 6-3, 6-3.

Later, Capadocia revealed that she played with injured index finger which she had to tape in the quarterfinals.

Capadocia, winner of 10 titles since last summer, check the nasts three who-she upset Indian top seed Sayanka Dalal, 6-4, 6-2, in the quarterfinals.

US takes one-point Solheim Cup lead

AP CREAMER

SUGAR GROVE, ILLINOIS—PAULA CREAMER made a 20-foot putt to give the United States a 9½-7½ lead against Europe at the Solheim Cup, and make Juli Inkster the highest-scoring US player in this event's history on Friday.

The 49-year-old Inkster has scored 17½ points, one more than Meg Mallon, now an assistant captain for the US.

"That just means I'm the oldest," Inkster cracked after her's and Grimmer's 2-and-1 foursome victory over Catriona Matthew and Janice Moodie.

Only Europe's Annika Sorenstam (18 points) and Laura Davies (22) have scored more points than Inkster in the Solheim Cup.

Inkster, a seven-time major champion, showed her talent time and again with sharp iron shots and clutch putts.

Inkster hasn't won on tour since 2006 but US captain Beth Daniel didn't hesitate to make her a captain's pick, and Inkster showed why with a critical point against Matthew and Moodie.

The foursomes led by 1½ points after the fourball matches, and looked to end the day ahead with Natalie Gulbis and Christina Kim easily handling Sophie Gustafson and Suzann Pettersen and Cristie Kerr and Cristie Kerr up 3 up after 12 holes.

But Inkster missed just putts on the next two holes, putting a big dent in their lead. With Becky Brewerton and Gulabya Stavers and Maria Hjorth and Anna Nordqvist winning their matches right about the same time, the European momentum pointed for a big shift in momentum.

Inkster responded with a spectacular chip on the par-5 18th, running it a foot past the hole from 120 yards. After halving the 16th hole, the worst the Americans could do was a half-point for the match.

First Cobra Ironman under way at CamSur

By Dennis Principe, Correspondent

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—A MEmorable competition is expected unless a world-class field swings into action in the first Cobra Energy Drink Ironman 70.3: Philippines today at the Caceres Waterfronts Complex in this bustling provincial capital.

Almost everyone among the elite triathletes undressed the sweltering Camsur weather with triathlon Ironman veteran Jim Jacobs calling the Lago Del Rey lake "like icing."

The race will feature longer distances than its Olympic counterpart with the 1.9-km swim followed two-km legs, the 90.1-km bike course set with the scenic Mt. having serving as backdrop and the 21.1 km run divided into two counter clockwise loops.

"A lot of [foreigners] are here because of the course and there's why are here those really good athletes coming in," said JP bet Arlucd Menasith.

TRIATHLON enthusiasts (from left...standing) Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., Alabs boss Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, Defending 70.3 champion Terenzo Bozzone and 6-time Ironman Ironman champion Cameron Brown take part in a photo op with (from left, seated) Hawaii marathon Chris McCormack, Australian Pete Jacobs and Ironman Hawaii winner Dirk Nate.

Menasith will lead the country's campaigns in this tough race participated in by two world championships and a few more world championship campaigners from Australia, New Zealand and Europe who will battle it out for the $6,000 top prize.

Reigning Ironman champion Chris McCormack of Australia is expected to be seriously challenged by fellow iconic Aussie, Tim Hunt of Hawaii and Cameron Brown of New Zealand.

Another Oro Commander, Terenzo Bozzone, the defending 70.3 champion vows to put up a competitive but "controlled" race as he is coming off a shoulder injury after a nasty spill during a recent training with McCormack.

Chief promoter Wilfred Steven Uytengsu of Alaska Milk will compete in the race and is at the same time anxious how the event will come about since his corporation got the rights to stage the Ironman from the casualty-riden World Triathlon Corporation (WTC) for two more years.

A feature of the strategy to entice more participants is the classification of the race into entry courses.

Heaven Sent battles Nuclear Power today

MULTIPLE STAKES WINNER HEAVEN Sent tries to secure this year's fifty title when the battles undefeated division rival Nuclear Power in the P1.2-Million Philippine Cup Classic today at the Saddler and Cebu Jockey Club in Naic, Cavite.

Coming off huge wins in the first and third leg of this year's Triple Crown Championship, Heaven Sent paces the money leader board with winnings of over P6.3-million from the victories in seven stellar races.

Meanwhile, Oh Wacky will also be a favorite with regular pilotee Joe Noel Cenia aboard when he meets five other colts in the Stanson II. Stagwing Memorial Division 1 race, a 1190-m dyson serving as main highlight of a six-day racing festival hosting the Inquirer/Manila mayor and friend of horseracing.

The quick-stepping Heaven Sent is owned by a syndicate of horse owners led by Ben Chiquillard is trained by Willy Hernandez.

Nuclear Power recently returned to the track after an extended layoff due to an injury. Nuclear Power campaigns out of the powerhouse Esguerra Racing Stable and is being conditioned by veteran trainer Cleto Alvarez.

RACING FORM

BY TIP CHORES
Al Isana Ace Pek

Race 1—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Ring (4), Pinay Sweetheart (2), Sweetheart (3), Sweetheart round (6), Pay to Win (5)

Race 2—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 3—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 4—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 5—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 6—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 7—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 8—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 9—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Race 10—(Pental Gir) Trio: [illegible] Lucky (6), Lucky (2), Lucky (3), Lucky (4), Lucky (5), Lucky (1), Lucky (7), Lucky (8), Lucky (9), Lucky (10)

Bata, Django kick off Villar bids with wins

[illegible] Reyes and Fernando "Django" Bautista have removed their respective unbeatables from to advance into the round-of-16 and keep their bids alive in the Mayor Villar Cup Kadayawan Leg being held before a huge crowd at the Artillery Center of the SCCC Mall here.

Reyes took to school Manila qualifier Ruben Cana, scoring a 9-2 nod to advance his quarter for his first title in this prestigious island-hopping series.

Bautista, on the other hand, utilized his vast experience in the lab in bringing down local bet Roberto Bermejo, 9-4, keeping him on track for his second title in as many tilts after his title run in the Regalo-Hongkongee leg last February.

"Winning wasn't easy because my opponent played well, but I really just went to win this tournament as a way of thanking him. What he's supporting billiards," Bautista said in Filipino.

Hoped here finish in this series was to ensure top-16 Nestor Kiamco to the inaugural Alabang leg in May 2009.

Reyes was to meet Jose Gabriel Salido, a debutant from Cebu in the next round encounter in this tournament reorganized by the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines.

Tournament also drew another promising talent in Egay Generalao, who edged out a 9-8 opponent over veteran Godofredo Bautista.

Other first seeders were Nolasco leg champion Raniel Gallego blasting Genaro bet Christopher Martinez, 9-2; Ricky Dames beating Benjie Generalao, 9-5; Rustico Alcazaren outhasting Jason Bautista, 9-7; Kiamco decapping Bet Hector Ramos, 9-5; Calubaquib leg Allan Lee Van Cortezia rebuking Benny Olivares, 9-6; and Jessie de Guzman, outwitting William Wilfares, 9-4.

QCAA OPENER Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista makes the ceremonial toss at the start of the 3rd Quezon City Athletic Association (QCAA) high school basketball festivities between defending champion Christ School and Jeanna de Manila. Christ won the match, 51-47.

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: your_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor: Teddyboy S. Melendres

Bolt eyes track grand slam

American Felix snaps Jamaican sprint streak

BERLIN—FOR THE LAST TIME, USAIN Bolt will repeat that rhetorical question: he has answered over and over again at this year's world championships—"Who faster?"

And it seems still questions what has been written on billboards and T-shirts across Berlin for weeks.

But on Saturday, he will need a little help from his Jamaican friends.

The great Jamaican-US battle for sprint domination comes to a close with the 4x100 relay finals, and with the Caribbean island leading 3-1.

American sprinter Allyson Felix is responsible for bringing the fight from leaving one another Olympian rest. Last Friday, she won her third straight 200-meter title, beating Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown.

Last year, the Jamaicans won 3-0.

On Saturday, another gold for Felix in the women's 4x100 could tilt make it as close as possible. But then again, the US men's team again botched a baton exchange and was disqualified for the second time in as many years. It effectively hands victory to the Jamaicans.

Two years ago, Yyon Gay won three golds in the sprints to lead the United States to an overpowering performance in Osaka, Japan, at the last worlds.

Nana Bolt is poised to do likewise.

And he sure won't waste the 23rd birthday present he got from his teammates when they qualified him for the final. Bolt ran out the heats, happy to give autographs to fans.

On top of that, Bolt received a second gold medal on the stands and accepted a second check of $100,000 for a world record, bringing his haul to $200,000 in one week of work. There still is $100,000 at stake if the relay team sets another world record on the way to a third title.

Then again, that total would have to be cut with his teammates.

In the end, Bolt might be going for three golds, too. After winning the 200, she will run the 4x100 on Saturday and might just add the 4x400 on Sunday.

She left Osaka with the same three golds two years ago.

Triples could not be produced by people more different in style than Bolt and Felix, one hyperbole, brash and over the top, the other understated, composed, even withdrawn.

Instead of smiles, posing and all talk, Felix keenly eyed one another and little more than a smile as she finish when she broke the Jamaican hold on sprinting going back to the Beijing Olympics.

She held off an early charge from Campbell-Brown, and once she entered the straight where her stride is at its most efficient, there was no stopping her.

"I was very confident about my strength," Felix said. AP

ALL SMILES Felix of the US celebrates after winning the women's 200m final during the world athletics championships in Berlin. AP/DDP

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Andy trips French foe, faces Roger

MASON, OHIO—ANDY MURRAY WAS A set and 2-0 down before winning a 10-shot rally and beating Julien Benneteau of France, 6-0, 6-3, 6-1, in the Western and Southern Financial Group Masters quarterfinals on Friday.

"It made a big difference," defending champion Murray said of the long point in windy conditions. "I think he was very inevitable that rally and I managed to stay strong. He only won two games after that."

The second-ranked Murray will face No. 1 Roger Federer in Saturday's semifinals. Federer extended his winning streak against Clayton Hewitt to 13 matches with a 6-3, 6-4 win.

Third-ranked Rafael Nadal beat Tomas Berdych, 6-4, 7-5, setting up a semifinals rematch with fourth-ranked Novak Djokovic. Djokovic, who beat Nadal in last year's semifinals, also won, 6-4, 7-5, over fellow Serbian.

Murray double-faulted on set point in the first set, during which he had 18 unforced errors and was overpowering just 14 in his third-round win on Thursday.

He broke back in the third game of the second set, winning the grueling rally when Benneteau's overhead hit the tape and dipped wide.

"That's probably the longest point I've had since I've been on the court," Murray said. "Your legs start burning. It wasn't even scheduling." AP

UP shocks…

Point page 8/7

score up at 63-77, with 1:20 remaining, before free throws by Mikee Reyes and Martin Reyes reclaimed their lead in the last 15 seconds.

The Archers still had a chance to forge overtime, 81-78, but Lopez stripped the ball off Dagoning with seven ticks remaining.

UE is powered other another in recent years, last clobbered La Salle on July 14, 2005, 62-56. With the win, the Maroons matched their three-win record last season.

NU was the last team holding an under-50 percent win-loss record to other sports against Ateneo and La Salle in one season. The Bulldogs accomplished the feat in 2003.

The Bulldogs, who dropped six games by just an average of 2.8 points in the first round, held the Bulldogs to only 13 points in the final two quarters, the lowest output in the second half this season.

"We really were not prepared against them," said Adamson coach Leo Austria.

Meanwhile, Ateneo battles UST at 2 p.m., today while FEU takes on UE to Cut the Ateneo (4-1) dilemma.

The scores:

First Game

ADAMSON (78)—Canaday 12, Bangalo 11, Calma 11, Hayes 10, Cabale 8, Nunez 8, Salinas 6, Dawson 6, Calma 5, Bello 2, Pelaloza 2, Sandoval 2, Paz 0, Lucas 0, Lapitan 0.

NATIONAL (81)—Balcor 16, Yee 11, Hernandez 8, Lay 7, Nuez 7, Sangcal 7, Dagli 7, Pambuan 7, Blanco 7, Ong 7, Salazar 6, Magat 2, Feria 0, Salvacion 0.

Quarters: 19-20, 40-31, 57-45, 78-81

Second Game

UP (2)—Ilustre 21, Co 12, Lyon 11, Hubbell 7, Nuez 6, Intengal, Cordero 6, Ma. Reyes 4, Quigaret 2, Lorenz 0, Ilustre 0.

UE (84)—Balcor 15, Dagdagan 15, Webb 11, Villanueva 11, Mabalac 10, Co 8, Mendoza 7, Mendez 7, Bringas 2, Dagatang 1, Andrade 1, Lorenzo 0, Managuero 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 20-19, 40-30, 59-48, 82-84

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espiritu

Sunday BIZ

Paying it forward in spades

Western Union helps out OFWs

By Clopicio Medina
Contributor

IF THERE IS ONE BUSINESS THAT understands the heart of migrant workers, it is Western Union.

With more than 8,500 agent outlets throughout the Philippines and over 234,000 locations in over 200 countries and territories worldwide, the company acts as a bridge to millions of overseas workers and their families on a regular basis.

Yet, despite its dwelling global business operations, Western Union strives to make a difference in the lives of the little people it serves, aside from just by providing for basic money transfer services.

Recently, Patricia Zamora Burgos took time off from her demanding schedule to spend a quiet morning with 12 children of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Pasig City.

Patricia is the senior vice president of The Western Union Company for the Pacific and Indochina, travel is a big word that comes with her responsibility, looking after all of the company's business locations—which include marketing, sales, operations and finances—in the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

The intimate few hours spent with the children, all wages residents of Manor Angeles Academy, who started this month their second year of early childhood education, were enough to wipe away the pressure cooker that come with Patricia's work, including having to leave her loved parents of four her three children and

INTERNATIONAL

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ 'Bayanihan' brings Laguna products to market /B2

'Bayanihan' brings Laguna products to market

By Clarice Cutting-Pulumbarit
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—AMID the crisis, small- and medium-scale businessmen in Laguna have decided to band together, the native Bayanihan way to be able to cope with problems they share.

They have put up a factory outlet selling all their products ranging from eatery such as peanut, tarts, banana chips, arare, jellyjet, pulvoron and herbal teas processed by peasants, fishers, garlic chips, crispy shop and sweet shops.

Before San Mateo, president of the Laguna Association of Food Producers and Processors Inc. (LAFPI), said the group was formed through the help of the Department of Trade and Industry-Region 4-A in Laguna which sponsored a workshop on food quality.

The micro, small and medium businesses which attended the workshop discovered a common problem of how to improve access to the market. This provided the inspiration for the diverse group to come together.

Difficulties

San Mateo said a small business faces difficulties in satisfying buyers' requirements before it could penetrate the market. "The saw's sexy, it is hard to develop distributors. So we thought, why not band together and address this problem?" he said.

After months of planning, LAFPI was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Oct. 10, 2008 with 16 member incorporators.

To become a member, one must be a direct producer from Laguna. "They should not merely be buying products from another province," said San Mateo, who explained that the idea is to allow the growth of the individual producers.

STRUGGLING BUSINESSES Most members of the Laguna Association of Food Producers and Processors Inc. are still "struggling" or starting businesses. (GAMMA CUNTAPAY FOR INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON)

Struggling

San Mateo said that their members are at various stages of development, but most continue to struggle.

He cited Geollanie's Taste, a home-based business in which the owners themselves make the products.

The maximum number of units currently produced per day by the enterprise stands at around 2,000 pieces only, scarce to the market is minimal.

When a buyer inquired at the Los Baños outlet regarding the production of a higher volume, the owners went to the DTI to ask how they could address the demand.

Another members such as Joey Peñarada, which is already being sold in SM branches, and Segong Chicken, which has seven branches, have a relatively established market.

On the other hand, Fatmilcreations, which sells fruit-veggie drinks, is still marketing under Annie's, which sells spinach, is still struggling to be recognized in the market.

Outlet

The group's purpose is to assist manufacturers so that the quality and standards required by big buyers could be sustained.

"More importantly, we hope to have a strong wholesale market could have access to the market," he said. "So we thought of an outlet where all our products could be sold."

Months after the group was formally formed, they were able to open their first factory outlet in Anos, Los Baños town last July 1. An earlier mall, which established before LafPI was formed, also remains in the DTI-Region IV-A office in Mororia.

San Mateo said that many people are also able to see the outlet where they could drop by and inquire about the products. Inquiries are directed to the actual producers.

The outlet is located along the National Highway beside established outlets of fruits and other tourism usually bus there passalubong. The Los Baños outlet was initially chosen because it is an area relatively near all its members.

San Mateo said they have established a patently competitive-investment for operations so that the individual producers need not regularly check the outlet for supply. "We have a daily sales ticket from the outlet which is recorded in a computer where the inventory of supplies is automatically updated," he said. "When it registers a lack of supply the producers are then informed."

Ultimately, if the number of outlets increase, the group hopes to transform the mall of the DTI as a major outlet for purchases and delivery.

Export

Although they also aim to have outlets in each Laguna town, San Mateo said the ideal are for their outlets in Metro Manila, especially in Makati City.

"It's harder to sell Laguna products to Laguna," he said. "What we hope to do is bring Laguna products to areas outside the province."

Of course, the group is also hoping to reach export status. San Mateo said some of its members could already qualify for the International Food Expo. He admitted, however, that there is still a long way to go as they want first to capture the local market.

They hope to coordinate with retailer bases so these could drop by the outlet, release flyers and have food tasting booths.

"The possibility (for export) is there. Income no market is important so the products will be known and, also, a larger volume capacity. Once you can produce a larger volume, it is a solution on a lot of things," he said.

San Mateo said being organized as a group helps in terms of reducing production costs and in procuring its market.

San Mateo cited the input organized by the DTI for helping the group have access to a relatively large market.

At the Laguna Fair during the Antipo (Ani ng Lagunan) Festival this year, LafPI's members had booths with some members earning as much as P100,000 during the fair.

LafPI's next recent venture is its participation in the food expo which is being undertaken from the Mall of Asia. Wholesale buyers could have access to the producers in the individual booths where display of items could line up on its months.

The activity begins on Aug. 12 but San Mateo said they are still organizing their own booth because, although the booth is free, they still need to provide contributions for electricity consumption and other expenses.

Aside from that expos, San Mateo said the DTI will help them with seminars on how to secure accreditation with the Bureau of Food and Drugs and how to get Halal certification to expand into that could be particularly to be more under Islamic Law.

The group also intends to submit proposals for funding to the DTI, while the Department of Science and Technology has offered support in terms of advice on how to improve packaging.

Paying it forward...

From page B1
Inquirer Lyceum

Educational assistance

There was an animated return of affection from the 12 children who were chosen by Western Union, with the help of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration, from a poor informal settlers' community in Western Bicutan in Taguig City for educational assistance.

Each child had been given a "scholarship" covering tuition, educational and classroom materials for three years of preschool education at Mona Design Academy, a school run by Alicia Foundation, an international nongovernmental organization founded by Ligaya Amilo of Cebu.

"OFWs live and work overseas to build a better future for their families. A top priority for them is education for their children," says Patricia Montes, Western Union is committed to giving back and enhancing the lives of local communities," she adds.

The visit of the education of the selected OFW children was made possible through a combined grant of $50,000 from Dream Inc., the largest single agent network of Western Union locations in the Philippines, and The Western Union Foundation, which facilitates Western Union's charitable programs worldwide.

Since the grant covers for 24 children's complete early childhood education, ten more children will be chosen for this scholarship program within the school year.

Understanding needs

Dream president and CEO Lorenzo Dionisio accompanied Patricia during the school visit, and spent time with the school children to better understand the migrant families' needs.

"This is the second year that Dream has participated in the Western Union Foundation's Agent Giving Circles program, which encourages us helping migrant workers and their families—who often suffer from separation," says Dionisio Lorenzo.

Agent Giving Circles is a program of Western Union Foundation that compels it to match donations from its agents.

"With Agent Giving Circles, our donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar and the effect for local communities will hence be doubled. I am very pleased to be part of this and I look forward to participating in more of these community programs together with the Western Union Foundation in the years to come," says Lorenzo.

In addition to spending time with the children, Patricia also handed over to Mona Amigo a computer with broadband connection, making it possible for families of OFWs to communicate with their kin abroad.

Mona Amigo opened its first school in the Philippines last year, targeting the community in Taguig City where many families live in poverty and are unable to provide their children with quality education. Mona Amigo implements an international quality early childhood education curriculum that focuses on developing cognitive skills and on instilling a lifelong love for learning and the earth.

"The Mona Amigo Scholarship Program is one of the many initiatives under Western Union's five-year $50-million signature program "Our World, Our Family" which is designed to help migrant workers and families stay connected, overcome barriers and realize their dreams.

"Through Mona Amigo's program, it is our hope that this will instill a lifelong love for learning and the truth, and the beginning of a brighter future for the next generation. In connection with this program, we also hope the scholarships have helped alleviate OFWs' financial burdens," says Patricia.

Funding for financial literacy and life skills plus the provision of educational grants for families of migrant Filipino workers are among a range of programs that helped. The Western Union Company is one of the world's most prestigious awards in corporate philanthropy.

Recognition

The Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP), the only international forum of corporate CEOs focused exclusively on corporate philanthropy, recognized Western Union for its Our World, Our Family program to improve the lives of migrant workers at every rung of the financial ladder through education and global economic opportunity initiatives.

Since its inception in 2007, Western Union's Our World, Our Family program logged more than 2,000 employee volunteer hours of service, launched 500 new migrant businesses, engaged 1,800 [illegible] in 180 countries, distributed 110,000 learning packs that help migrants adjust to their new communities, illustrated more than $500,000 for scholarships, and helped diaspora groups in the United States raise more than $500,000. In addition, more than $4.5 million has been generated to employee and agent gifts.

PATRICIA Amigo and Lorenzo Ocampo take time out to be with some of the children of OFWs.

WESTERN Union's Our World, Our Family program logged more than 2,000 employee volunteer hours of service.

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Be extra cautious, DTI urges buyers

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND Industry (DTI) advises consumers to be extra cautious in availing themselves of freebies or giveaways from retailers, suppliers and manufacturers...these might be a catch.

These are various instances in which sales agents or promoters are characterized as rude and unaccommodating:

- Price greatly exceeded the price at which similar products or services were readily obtainable in similar transactions.
- Consumer was unable to receive a substantial benefit from the subject of the transaction.
- Seller or supplier was aware that there was no reasonable probability of payment of the obligations in full by the consumer.
- Seller or supplier induced the consumer to enter into a transaction in which neither he nor his spouse intended to enter or knew that the seller or supplier intended.

Consumers can protect themselves against overaggressive vendors and retailers. Here are some tips:

- Don't rush into making purchases. Take your time in carefully reading through contracts.
- Resist high-pressure sales tactics. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Beware of unsolicited phone calls—don't be afraid to hang up on telemarketers that are too pushy.
- Use user reviews, giving real information such as bank account or other financial data.
- Talk is cheap, get written endorsements of the price.
- Ask about refund policies and warranties before you buy.
- Prepare a list of questions when considering a major purchase.

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GOINGS-ON

Knowing the legalities of real estate transactions

THE URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE will conduct a lecture/seminar "Legal Aspects of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Documentation and Registration" on Sept. 2, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maestro Function Room, Max's Restaurant, near the exit of Gorordo 2, Makati City. Lawyer-professor Rex Fortes CR. Cruz III as lecturer.

This topic covers contract of sale, options, earnest money, characteristics of mortgages, forms of mortgages, mortgage and legal instruments, foreclosure, redemption, assignment of loans and subleases, issues on improvements introduced by the lessee, sale of leased properties, and contract law, important provisions for Contract of Agency, Sale, Lease and Mortgage and others, sample of legal forms, importance of notarization and registration, adverse claims, notice of lis pendens, and registration requirements and other important topics.

An open forum and consultation will follow after every lecture.

For other details or advance registration, (e-bare limit)ale may be reached at (632)812-0000 or (7582)812, or (0916)-4265114 / 0921-4839431 or e-mail at corbumpo@yahoo.com or pr@ranet.phil@gmail.com. Details may also be viewed at www.urban.institute.blogspot.com.

Holcim, PCCI seal partnership

HOLCIM Philippines Inc.'s senior vice president for sales, marketing, distributions and technical services Eduardo Soliquen and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Edgardo Lanzon seal their partnership for the 55th Philippine Business Conference and Exposition to be held on Oct. 29-31 2009 at Tres Montes Hotel.

The theme for this year's conference is "Regional Economic Development: Frontline to Sustainability."

As a partner of PCCI, Holcim is holding executives to discuss relevant industry issues in the national convention as well as the area business conferences in Iloilo City, Baguio City, South Cotabato and Metro Manila.

DOT expects Phitex '09 to attract 200 foreign buyers

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism (DOT) is organizing the Philippine Travel Exchange (Phitex) 2009 to bring in some 200 wholesale buyers.

Specifically targeted by DOT to join Phitex 2009 are the leading travel agents from Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, USA, Canada, Germany, Turkey, Russia, India and select countries in Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Phitex 2009, according to DOT Secretary Ace Durano, is an annual marketing event designed to globally strengthen the country's tourism product and encourage local participants to provide affordable and competitive tourism packages.

"Slated at the SMX Convention Center on Sept. 2 to 4, Phitex '09 kicks off with educational seminars for local sellers of travel and tourism packages. While the sessions are ongoing, event partner Philtoa (Philippine Tourism Operators Association) will conduct pre-event tours and related activities for the foreign buyers," Durano said.

With the theme "Explore, Experience . . . The Philippines is made to be traveled," Phitex 2009 will showcase the country's unique attractions and destinations across its 7,100 islands and the many exciting activities they offer.

For more details, call POVE at 525(7)30, 525(8)738 to 37 local 3623 and 3626, e-mail phitex2009@dotpov.gov.ph, or website www.philippines.net/phitex).

Convergys opens new facility

THE (525)(8)(53) Processing Association of the Philippines (APEC) has been creating steady growth for the BPO industry into 2010, and Convergys has helped validate that trend.

A global leader in relationship management, Convergys Corp. has announced the opening of its new Convergys Manila in Makati City, in Metro Manila.

This opening marks the fourth of five facilities Convergys has added throughout the country following its major expansion announcement in May 2008.

The new office that has been operational for include Convergys' Cebu Anabeon (I), UP Technohub, and Ayala Fuentes, all of which were dedicated in April 2009 by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Situated among one of the largest shopping districts in the country and in the midst of the premier business district of Makati City, Convergys' new state-of-the-art facility encompasses over 17,000 square meters and has the ability to hold approximately 2,000 employees.

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ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

LEYTE

ITEM#410 - Lot Improvement
Title ID: 4139
L.A. 2,282.00 sqm. F.A. 240.00 sqm.
TCT #: T-5587
H-152916 Brgy. Cabalawan, Tacloban City
Market Price: 3,879,520.00
Min. Bid Price: 2,715,000.00

ITEM#411 - Lot Only
Title ID: 4140
L.A: 33,941.00 sqm.
TCT #: T-5587
H-152916 Brgy. Cabalawan, Tacloban City
Market Price: 1,979,520.00
Min. Bid Price: 2,715,000.00

ITEM#412 - Lot & Improvement
Title ID: 8005
L.A: 161.00 sqm. F.A: 235 sqm.
TCT #: T-40848
Lot T Blk 11 Pars St., Phase 4, V & G, Tacloban City
Market Price: 1,495,600.00
Min. Bid Price: 1,371,000.00

NORTH

ITEM#A1 - Agdiland
Title ID: 12161
Lot Area: 5,202.00 sqm
TCT#: 20907
Lot 7965 Along National Highway, Poblacion, Trinidad
Market Price: 3,672,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 1,858,000.00

ITEM#A2 - Lot Only
Title ID: 14552
Lot Area: 700.00 sqm
TCT#: 140764
Lot 6 Tulamban, Cebu City
Market Price: 1,750,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 1,225,000.00

ITEM#A3 - Lot Only
Title ID: 9522
Lot Area: 5,775.00 sqm
TCT#: 40801
Lot 6571 Brgy. Sabang, Obongo Island, Lapulapu City
Market Price: 1,210,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 908,000.00

ITEM#A4 - Lot & Improvement
Title ID: 11931
Lot Area: 281.00 sqm
TCT#: 46813
Lot 23 Blk 1 San Jose Village, Brgy. Opao, Mandaue City
Market Price: 6,912,410.00
Min. Bid Price: 5,000,000.00

LEYTE

ITEM#A5 - Lot Only
Title ID: 5263
Lot Area: 3,113.00 sqm
TCT#: T-14628
Lot 2068 (lot) Catarqueisan, Tacloban City
Market Price: 2,376,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 1,848,000.00

SOUTHERN SAMAR

ITEM#A6 - Industrial Lot
Title ID: 4001
Lot Area: 12,000.00 sqm
TCT#: T-1239
Lot 116 Brgy. Esperanza, Calbiran
Market Price: 8,100,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 7,920,000.00

WESTERN SAMAR

ITEM#A7 - Lot Only
Title ID: 1370
Lot Area: 2,000.00 sqm
TCT#: T-4980
2016-B Provincial Road, Brgy. Guinsi, Catbalogan City
Market Price: 1,014,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 2,227,000.00

ITEM#A8 - Lot with Structural Improvement
Title ID: 3502
Lot Area: 5,118.00 sqm
TCT#: 3917
Lot 7 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. Canlapwan, Catbalogan City
Market Price: 4,541,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 3,400,000.00

ITEM#A9 - Commercial Lot
Title ID: 6474
Lot Area: 156.00 sqm.
TCT#: TD No. 96-1001-001A
Lot 5263-A Maharlika Highway, Sitio Talanib, Catbalogan City
Market Price: 1,443,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 1,115,000.00

LEYTE

ITEM#A10 - Lot Only
Title ID: 13617
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm
TCT#: T-13860
Lot 1 Blk. 2 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 61,200.00
Min. Bid Price: 46,000.00

ITEM#A11 - Lot Only
Title ID: 15603
Lot Area: 281.00 sqm
TCT#: T-12665
Lot 2 Blk. 2 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 71,400.00
Min. Bid Price: 54,000.00

ITEM#A12 - Lot Only
Title ID: 15768
Lot Area: 271.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12666
Lot 4 Blk. 2 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 76,200.00
Min. Bid Price: 56,000.00

ITEM#A13 - Lot Only
Title ID: 13610
Lot Area: 225.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-13666
Lot 5 Blk. 2 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 65,800.00
Min. Bid Price: 50,500.00

ITEM#A14 - Lot Only
Title ID: 15604
Lot Area: 302.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12670
Lot 6 Blk. 2 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 80,400.00
Min. Bid Price: 60,000.00

ITEM#A15 - Lot Only
Title ID: 15618
Lot Area: 262.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12667
Lot 1 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 51,440.00
Min. Bid Price: 34,000.00

ITEM#A16 - Lot Only
Title ID: 15612
Lot Area: 228.00 sqm
TCT#: T-12652
Lot 2 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 27,840.00
Min. Bid Price: 21,000.00

ITEM#A17 - Lot Only
Title ID: 15622
Lot Area: 235.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12661
Lot 3 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 28,680.00
Min. Bid Price: 23,000.00

ITEM#A18 - Lot Only
Title ID: 13611
Lot Area: 227.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12662
Lot 4 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 27,720.00
Min. Bid Price: 22,000.00

ITEM#A19 - Lot Only
Title ID: 13617
Lot Area: 227.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12663
Lot 5 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 27,720.00
Min. Bid Price: 22,000.00

ITEM#A20 - Lot Only
Title ID: 13618
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12660
Lot 6 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 29,280.00
Min. Bid Price: 23,000.00

ITEM#A21 - Lot Only
Title ID: 13619
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12659
Lot 7 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 29,280.00
Min. Bid Price: 23,000.00

ITEM#A22 - Lot Only
Title ID: 13620
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
TCT#: T-12658
Lot 8 Blk. 3 Brgy. Cantimeas, Burauen
Market Price: 29,280.00
Min. Bid Price: 23,000.00

Sunday BIZ

Guiuan's secrets revealed

The Surf Camp helps lure tourists to town

Text and Photos by Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THAT A TOP-CLASS RESORT exists at all in the town of Guiuan in the southern tip of Eastern Samar comes many a travel eyebrow.

Guiuan, after all, is not exactly at the top of the list of travel destinations of business and leisure travelers. The drive [illegible] still belongs to such cities as Baguio in the north, Cebu in the Visayas and Davao in Mindanao.

Lawyer Manuel Go of Cebu, however, firmly believes that it will only be a matter of time before the secrets of this quiet, laid back second class municipality are revealed and it gets its fair share of visitors.

This explains why he and some partners decided to invest in the area's seclusion.

The Surf Camp on Guiuan's Calicoan Island, which is located on the east by the Pacific Ocean and Leyte Gulf on the west.

The Surf Camp on Calicoan's ABCD Beach opened its large wooden doors to the public in 2008 and the exclusive resort—really the best in Eastern Visayas—was designed with seclusion and romance in mind.

LOCALS earn a good living selling shells gathered from Guiuan's beaches.

THE SURF Camp on Calicoan Island features cottages inspired by Thai, Balinese and Filipino architecture.

There are only seven cottages set far enough from each other to ensure utmost privacy, and these spacious and tastefully appointed villas inspired by Thai, Balinese and Filipino architecture are equipped with acquired modern conveniences such as a television, hi-fi, shower and air conditioner.

Complementing the top-notch accommodations are the high quality of service and the acceptable range of food and beverages.

Guests can choose to have their hot meals and snacks brought to their villas, or they can enjoy the company of their fellow guests at the main cottage. And if they feel like throwing a party for family and friends, The Surf Camp staff is ready and willing to prepare a feast.

But the real attraction of The Surf Camp is its access to the best waves in this part of the Philippines, which are perfect for novice and experienced surfers alike.

Summer months are ideal for beginners training on gentle two-to-three-foot waves, while the more seasoned surfers can come during the latter months of surfing season that runs from April to November for the bigger, more challenging waves.

Visitor arrivals reach their peak in October because of the historic Samar Surfing Cowes, a competition first held in 2003.

Backing the competition, which is part of the Philippine Surfing Circuit, are the Department of Tourism, the provincial government of Eastern Samar, the municipal government of Guiuan and the Philippine Surfing Federation.

Many of The Surf Camp's guests, however, prefer to just sit back and relax on their lounge chairs facing the sea. The sound of silence is just too soothing to be ignored.

Among the first visitors of The Surf Camp are honeymooners from Korea who are only too happy to take either the commercial flight or Tacloban and then the two-hour drive by service to Calicoan or The Surf Camp's private plane from Cebu to the Guiuan airport, which once was the landing of bombers during World War II.

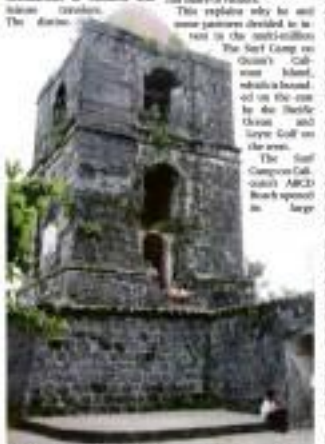
These days, The Surf camp is hosting more company outings and seeing to an increasing number of corporate travelers yearning for a break from their routine.

It is this anticipation of more travelers going to the Surf Camp and Guiuan that prompted Globe Telecommunications to invest in the upgrade of the telecommunications system in the area so that visitors would still be able to stay in touch with their office or families through their mobile phones or laptops.

Smart already has many of the near-extensive mobile phone coverage for basic services such as text messaging and phone calls, though its next step is to expand its mobile broadband services.

"We realize that many tourists and travelers are only able to go to remote if they get to stay in touch, like check their email," says Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto. "But is why we are improving not just our GSM network but also our broadband services in tourist destinations like Guiuan."

This should give travelers one more reason to get off the beaten path and take a break in rustic Guiuan.



STUDENTS wear at the belfry of Guiuan's centuries-old Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Coffee shop stays close to home

BAGA CITY—HOBBYISTS turning in this city and it's bringing to cups of espresso, latte and mocha-heavy java fronts.

When brother-sister Sydney Ty, 30, and his sister Joan Sydney Cheng, 32, decided to put up a coffee shop in 2003, they wanted to name it Pods. Reason because it would be located along Magsaysay Avenue which was then fast becoming the eight-lane entertainment strip of Naga City.

But the Department of Trade and Industry did not approve the name as they thought it to Starbucks Coffee, which uses the same very familiar to coffee-loving city folk.

So Ave, Sydney said, customers had appreciation towards espresso-based coffee concoctions.

"Some of our customers complained that they were losing sleep because our coffee was very strongly flavored," he said. "But we understood because our coffee shop was one of the first to serve espresso-based coffee in Naga City. People were used to drinking instant coffee."

The thought of opening another coffee shop Bramburg Coffee because we wanted it to have a very relaxing ambiance by placing beanbags around the place," said Sydney.

He said they originally wanted to put up only Mellow Cafe, a restaurant, but they made up their mind to establish about coffee shop after they had been inspired by the success of a homegrown coffee shop in Cebu City.

"My sister, who is my business partner, said that if a coffee shop could be successful in a provincial city like Cebu, it would mean a coffee shop in Naga could also be successful."

So without thinking twice, he and his sister started Bramburg with a capital of about P1 million in a family-owned lot, side by side with Mellow Grill.

Sydney said they found it hard to start from scratch.

Coffee concoctions

"In our first few months of operation, there were times when I would personally taste in serving cups of coffee to our customers because we started with few employees. There were times when we had to deal with customers who were comparing ours with more upscale coffee shops," Sydney said.

But soon Bramburg Coffee found itself serving custom-tailor concoctions, from espresso-based drinks to customized milk to different flavors of cold beverages. Some of the concoctions are coffee shop staples while some others are unique.

Sydney said most of the concoctions, including mochaberry java frost, were perfected through trial and error.

"During the times when we were creating some of our milk beverages, there were days when I would have money when after cooking and approving coffee concoction the whole day."

He said he was not particular to a coffee gourmet. "I just love coffee."

But their effort paid off and paid well. In just one year, they got their investment back, and their income has increased since then.

"Our coffee shop has proved that there is market for espresso-based coffee in a provincial city like Naga."

Locally produced coffee

Sydney said one of the reasons why they have relatively low production cost is that the coffee beans they are are locally produced.

"We order coffee beans from coffee planters in the Cordillera Region in northern Luzon. As a result, our coffee beans are not only cheaper in price but also fresher in quality. There are times when the coffee beans I bring to the shop is so still prickly fun because they have just been ground."

He said they were resolved to keep their coffee concoctions affordable.

"The spending behavior of Bicolanos is different. They do not splurge or spend big on food products. So we have not to come out on volume of customers but on profit margin. But we still keep our prices low and affordable."

Sydney said most of their customers are from the classes A, B and C. "But we do not have a specific market. We cater to all kinds of people."

The profits served by the coffee shop are courtesy of my wife," he said, adding that it is one of the reasons why they have relatively lower production cost. His wife operates Cake My Day, a pastry shop.

He said although they had wanted the coffee shop to have an upscale look and feel, they had been careful not to overdo its interior design to the point that regular customers would be intimidated.

He said he was glad his friends who are interior designers offered to design the physical appearance of the place.

"They helped a lot in making our coffee shop appear as a very comfortable place, where a customer could sit around and feel cozy at home."

Expansion

Now the Bramburg Coffee, which started as an experiment, has three branches in Naga City. Aside from that in Magsaysay Avenue where it all started, there's one in Panganiban Avenue, while the other occupies one of the biggest stalls at the second level of SM City Naga.

In seven years, it has become one the largest homegrown chain of coffee shops in Bicol.

But Sydney said that although they had been thinking about it, putting up a branch in Metro Manila was still a far-fetched idea.

"Here, we are just thinking of staying home. In 10 years, we plan to put up branches of Bramburg Coffee all over Bicol."

He said they would be relaunching new coffee concoctions before the year ends.

"If there's one thing I have learned from operating a business, it's that I should always continue to learn and try new ways. Aonas Cebilio Salvo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

COFFEE (center) at Bramburg Coffee serves hot and cold espresso-based coffee concoctions.

In just one year, the brother-and-sister team got its investment back

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- GamSur, here we come! /D1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Thelma Sinson San Juan

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What, really, is 'delicadeza'?

When did the butt we kiss become the measure of who we are?

By Conchita Razon
Contributor

DELICADEZA IS a Spanish word. It derives its almost intangible quality from the word, delicado, which means delicate, fragile, easily broken, irreplaceable, precious.

Delicadeza was soon reabsorbed in Philippine culture. Like a precious diamond, the word has many facets. When it applies to how we handle objects, it denotes "care." The Spanish synonyms are cuidado or recomiendo.

Miramiramay is closest in essence. It implies consideration, a deliberation from us lowly ones pleasure to avoid someone else's pain. It can also mean introspection, a quality usually alien in today's society.

When dealing with people, delicadeza is kindness or attentiveness. It suggests gentleness—the requisite qualities of sensitivity, tactfulness and refinement. All these virtues are born from a sense of propriety and decency.

At the very foundation is character. Doing the right thing when no one is looking.

Mantra

In recent weeks, we have heard the word spoken like a mantra to describe and commemorate a fallen leader who to his manifested is in abundance. It has also to the downtrodden who are perceived to have more at all.

Two cases in point. The latest accession of Senator Antonio and an extravagant dinner in Manhattan. Let's not even go there, as both events have been overdone up, argued about, theorized, blogged,

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ALABANG Zapote Wing, Festival Supermall, Filinvest. MAKATI Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz Extension. LIMA Hill 5, Rodrigues Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan, Q.C. ARANETA Gen. Aguinaldo Avenue corner Gen. McArthur Avenue, Araneta Center. ANTIPOLO M. L. Quezon corner Angono Avenue, Provincial City. MANILA Harrison Plaza Mall, A. Mabini corner M. Adriatico Sts., Malate, Manila. SUCAT Sucat Road corner Dunkeria Avenue, Parañaque City.

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What, really is . . .

From page C1

Tattered and tattooed ad nauseam.

In spite of heated debates and fiery accusations, no one seems too surprised. Has it all become mundane?

Slow, ridiculous call-outs? And if it does, where do we find it?

A writer says that it is "an issue slowly eradicated virtues and a relic of the past." Some people reveal that like many of our institutions, ridiculous has been destroyed and has coming in a grave with the rest of our values.

Please say it isn't so!

Elusive attribute

Are the cold sensibilities about this magical and elusive attribute, its so imagine that there is government department under jurisdiction for missing public funds. The person in charge assumes command responsibility, the reports his hunks and then resigns. That is ridiculous. Get the picture?

Imagine again, and this is earlier, that the president of a firm is my completely and owes no big time. My grandson just finished college. Guess who I call to give him a job interview. Of course it will be just a formality. He won't even fall in line. Oops! Definitely just left the building.

There is no precise definition for the D word. "We either have it or you don't. It is undefined exigence for human behavior. Propriety seems pretty close. It is informative as to existence.

What makes a judge exhibit himself when the case involves a friend or an enemy? Embroiled. A current restraining the urge to take advantage or seek favor, it is stunning to give up privilege for the sake of one's integrity.

But when was the last time we saw this happen? Just asking.

I come from a generation where defendant was my dance with him. esty, integrity, transparency and honor. At its center, I have said, lay time politicos, principled statesmen and prominent artists were away from a photo award or a event of promotion. What people said about them was of paramount importance. They believed that a good name was their best legacy.

In memoriam: them. Today no one seems to care.

Grooming in the mail

But when did this happen? How did we lose it?

I remain a guess. Maybe it started when we began promoting ourselves to get ahead. We couldn't wait for someone to say good things about us. So we said it ourselves, even if we had to make it up.

Maybe it was when we realized that no one really cares what you are as a person; that your wealth speaks for you, and that it is who you know that counts. When did the last we, too become the measure of who we are?

In our rush to rise up, we fell from the high pedestal of our ancestors and we gazed in the mud without knowing or caring how low we have fallen. We traded honor for fame, integrity for position, truth for fame, and in the process, we devastated ridiculous.

In its place, we have settled for banal. It is a sad state of affairs.

But there is good news. Two weeks ago, drenched by the downpour of rain, tears and yet low comfort, we discovered that treats, just treats, the D word is alive and well. We, defendant to utilize the site.

Take solemn friends. It is good.

Defining the D word—or the lack the

DELIGADZA CEMBE THEM EE- oport, honesty and security to one's self and family.—Albert Arellano, art dealer of Arellano Art Gallery

Definition suppose what my late grandma referred to in Ilgandik as *uTumaini*. Usually it refers to people who are culturally (not just functionally) literate. These are people who received the best education, admired widely for their achievements, but then do not seek glory or honor for themselves. They merely want to be instruments to inspire others.—Jose Wendell Capili, writer, teacher and accelerate vice president for public affairs, University of the Philippines

Definition is saying thank you, Madam President, but I have to decline your offer because my award has to go through the process.—Herman Radhoo, gallery owner, Hong Kong

Definition is an attitude of modesty, of basic human decency. It is the substitute glaze which becomes its name.—Alderly Lim, licensure professor, De La Salle University

Ridiculous is a feature of respect as an attitude. Ginaang pagpapahalaga sa sarili para di kailanmanin sambit ang sarili ng kapakanan kaysa kapakinabang ng iba. Nanindigan ang may sariling pagpapahalaga sa sarili na hindi siya kailangang nakasalalay ang sarili ng pagkilala para lang maliwanag ang sarili. Ang kapakinabang ay isang kapanalig, o siya ay hindi nilalanguan ang pansariling gain dang-ni sadyaunan. Di's respect toward others and yourself. It's proper regard of oneself so that one should not put one's self interest above that of others. He who has proper regard of himself would not allow his humanity to be robbed by grabbing an office he does not deserve or in a manner that's dubious.]—Ed Bautista, Philanthropy leader

Definition isn't there if you know something is wrong and you behave as if it is right, because it marks to your advantage.—Jacob Maciejka, member of parliament Sejfim district Lisa Hanga

Definition is when one does something outstanding or kind or manner or act therefore. Nakitaglaro Hindelina and no decency is all.—Ramon Orlina, sculptor

Definition is knowing you are right but compering your actions to consider the sensibilities of others. It is a form of diplomacy, of good manners, of respect for others and of knowing your place in the universe. But to insist on it as a matter of right. Let me give you I'd rather that people are forcing me to accept the award, rather than me insisting on holding on to it. Sometimes, when we get judged for who we are as human beings, some of us do not make the cut.—Angie Ambus, lawyer

Definition is being refined in manners, but somehow this is all lost in today's busy lives. Even that give an an excuse to just let go? It is knowing when to accept things, like being observer in a given situation. For instance, if your countrymen are already known as for swearing, you don't. Racist is doing tab of $15,000 and $20,000 rises

days spent.—Haley Lim, ex- respresent

What is not definition for me: Pretending being genuine (music) and chameleonlike putting one's personal interest above dignity, decorum and propriety, mores, making this more righteous and dignified just because one can get away with it. Or more than by downright Ambigulan ng mukha (brazenness).—Jerry Janice Harper, writer, Filmmaker

Or, lack of definition: I can run that up in one word—impropriety.—Lou Sobrepeña, impact advisor

Definition is about maintaining daily. When you maintain daily you lessen the chances of developing risks, unheard slots. This can have several benefits, including in- remaining your ambitions to-

4.) Pick qualified National Artists

It's the "in" or Machiavellian re- cesses abroad, since many of the people you're supposed to lead are living below the poverty line.

5.) Pursue yourself from being considered for awards when there is clear conflict of interests.

6.) Make sure think twice, thrice, and even four times before taking certain for Glamorous you did one do. That is why maintaining daily can help distill basic definitions.—Ralph Pena, artistic director, Blu'O Theater Company, New York

An example of a lack of definition, to me, is someone who is educated and well-bred, and yet not being able to act with manners and tact in a delicate situation. therefore complacency ignoring the sensitivities of the people around

Cancer also needs psycho-spiritual healing

DR. JANE Pagaduan Lopez

PSYCHIATRIST AND TRAUMA SPECIALIST
Dr. Jane Pagaduan Lopez has fought for women's rights all her life, championing peace and the cause of traumatized women and children in war-torn areas like Mindanao, and on a global scale, East Timor. Today she fights a different battle. Jane is battling Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In this Fight of her life, she invited Inside-Scoop-ladies has opted to take the bio-psycho-spiritual approach, and so far, it's been working.

The diagnosis came as a surprise a few months ago although she is the first to say she had been feeling out of sorts the last two years. "Every gadfare really wrecks us take charge of her own health and listen very closely to her body. You need to make and tell your doctors what your symptoms are, don't just act it settle. It's your body, after all. Your doctor can know only so much unless you tell him or her the full story or show him the whole picture."

There are many valuable lessons Jane has learned from her experience, which she shares with us on afternoon.

"First of all, you need to arm yourself with information, as much information as you can find but you also need to be discerning with what you read," she says. She warns to visit book which she says has been like a bible for her, "Intolerance—A New Step of Life," by David Servan-Schreiber.

Among other things, Servan-Schreiber talks about the Pro-Cancer lifestyle such poisons from avoid, among these are: 1) chronic exposure to toxins (chemicals in cosmetics, even perfumes and mouthwash and cookbooks, household cleaners, detergents, insecticides, pesticides); 2) a diet that is high fat, high sugar and low in fiber; 3) minimal physical activity—assuming less than 30 minutes of active exercise per day, which results in obesity, especially among middle aged menopausal women which results in an unhealthy body mass index of >26; 4) the presence of chronic inflammatory conditions like chronic infections such as gingivitis, gastritis, hepatitis, to name some, and degenerative diseases like arthritis; and 5) chronic stress.

Jane says that looking back, now, she unfortunately garnered a perfect score on all five points.

The moment she got a confirmed diagnosis, Jane dropped everything and focused her energies on getting well. "Do what needs to be done. Be task oriented and do not be afraid to ask your doctor questions. Explore all your options and make sure you get balanced information."

But more than the proactive approach to her treatment, Jane cannot begin to overemphasize the importance of the psycho-spiritual aspect of healing, which has been working for her so far. "To have a strong support system cannot over be underestimated."

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Barbosa-Gimbello

> It's best to be open about the difficulties and treatments one receives

Irreverent

Drawing from her experience as mental health practitioner, Jane says most newly diagnosed cancer patients tend to withdraw and keep the illness to themselves. U.S. Jane, as she likes to call herself now, has chosen to be irreverent about it. "I guess I have chosen to fit this way to a reaction to all the fears and misconceptions about cancer," she explains.

Fast-forward, many years later, she says opposite has happened. Jane is very diligent in updating friends and family about the status of her treatment. She has become completely open about the difficulties and the sensations she regularly receives. "I didn't feel there was a huge change in the way people saw or treated me when I became open about my cancer, and I don't think it had anything to do with my being a doctor myself. That is why it's ways to encourage newly diagnosed patients to get out of their cocoons to withdraw. That is really counter-very healing."

Finding a deeper meaning in the midst of the battle has also helped Jane immensely in her war against cancer. "I know now that God needed to give me a message. Cancer is just a methods and at least what I have to consider. I've put things in place."

A few months before her diagnosis, Jane says eldest daughter Kaye graduated at the top of her class in culinary school. "Now she is my sous-driver and personal chef," she says.

Younger daughter Krissy, who graduated summa cum laude from the National University of Singapore (NUS), also a few months before she got sick, had majored in Biomedical Engineering and Life Sciences. Her graduate thesis was on the cloning of cells for cancer treatments. "She is now in the forefront of cancer research in Singapore," Jane says.

Jane feels that having been in the helping/healing field of psychiatry has helped her face herself and dig deeper into what has happened. "Emotional intelligence is so important because it enables you to see yourself from afar and be able to tell your

DR. JANE Pagaduan Lopez

self what is going on."

In a letter to her younger sister Carol Ann, she shares a side side—a more human, enlightened, sensitive and positive sense of self, the self she was that has resulted from her battle with lymphoma.

She writes: "Not having the money and the strength to take care of myself emotionally, physically is somewhat of a dread. It helps to have read 'The New Earth' (by Eckhart Tolle), which put things in perspective for me. Our identity is not so much invested in our achievements, possessions, things, relationships, as it is all about our 'presence'—how we touched people's lives and how we showed or continue doing so."

A fundraiser by her friends will be held for Dr. Jane Pagaduan Lopez on Sept. 3, 7 p.m., at the Forbes Park Pavilion, featuring Richard Mark, Marco Andres, Izzy Paredes, Lutel Brunello, Hot Dog, Electromantics and Malaise. Call Dr. Lissa Trinidad at 5548470, 0917-8634812.

E-mail the author at cathybalmes@gmail.com

AyalaLand PREMIER

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

THEY CAME FROM THE SKIES. Park visitors witness alien crafts coming down from outer space, bearing strange creatures in each flying vehicle.

THIS HALLOWEEN, A MYSTERIOUS dark force transforms Hong Kong Disneyland from a sweet magical land to a spooky, eerie Park.

The first victim vanished a hundred years ago, which led to Main Street Hotel being haunted. Years later, a group of explorers disappeared in Demon Jungle, and now their restless spirits roam its trails. Recently, the mysterious dark force has attracted life forms in outer space – and they are on their way to Earth for an invasion unlike anything seen before.

If you're looking for something really different, Hong Kong Disneyland dares you to visit the Park from September 18 to October 31, 2009 for an unbelievable Halloween experience that you'll remember for a long, long time.

JOIN JACK and friends as they parade around the Park.

Glow in the Park Parade

When the dark force prevails, this spooky sensation glows in the dark and rocks the Park. Join Jack Skellington, his creepy Pumpkin Man and the horror of Dr. Finkelstein's Lab. Scream with the Disney Villains and gasp at the spine-chilling aesthetics of the smoking Rail Devils. And dance with your favorite Disney characters dressed in their Halloween attire!

SCARE and sightings are an enormous morning of an unprecedented alien invasion. Join the spectator of the attack and fun at Tomorrowland, Hong Kong Disneyland.

Alien Invasion

The dark force has been building and streaming a mysterious signal that attracts extra-terrestrial forces. These creatures have crashed into Tomorrowland after seemingly losing control of their spaceship. But what are their real intentions? Aliens are arriving, and their reason for coming may be more sinister than we can ever imagine.

GETTING into Demon Jungle is very thrilling, but it another matter.

Demon Jungle

This ancient empire, uncovered in the depths of Adventureland, was taken by the dark force years ago. Explorers built their mansion as burial ground and this intrusion evokes the demons that were in to possess everyone inside. The lost outpost has since been found, and this is your chance to explore... if you dare.

IF YOU SEEK a spine tingling experience, check into the Main Street Haunted Hotel. And hope that you'll be able to check out.

Main Street Haunted Hotel

Over a hundred years ago, something mysterious happened to the hotel situated in Main Street U.S.A. Victoria Maxwell was taken by the dark force and her ghost now roams the rooms and corridors of the Main Street hotel, hungry for new victims and scaring guests with new antics.

SCREAM and be thrilled at this last ride to another dimension.

Space Mountain – Ghost Galaxy

Explore the outer regions of an alternate universe on this fun and furious rollercoaster. Space Mountain has been transformed with a haunting sound track, ghoulish transmutation and scary apparitions that lurk around twists and turns, making your head race and your skin crawl. Ghost Galaxy is not a journey for the faint-hearted!

Memorable Merchandise

All new Haunted Halloween souvenirs are the perfect way to bring home an unforgettable. These limited edition Halloween souvenirs are only available for a limited time, so be sure to purchase them while they are still available.

Hotel Holiday Magic

Complete the trip of fun when you return to one of the hotels. Discover a palace of luxury at the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel. Or spend memorable meantimes and even splash around with your favorite characters in the pool at Disney's Hollywood Hotel.

Kick your cool level up a notch with totally scary experiences that you and your friends will be talking about for years to come. You'll find all these only at Hong Kong Disneyland Haunted Halloween. For more information, please visit www.hongkongdisneyland.com

© Disney

Contact your local travel agent and book your Hong Kong Disneyland Holiday Now!

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

What, really, is 'delicadeza'? /C1

PSBank ATM Card.
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Beautiful Ken

KENNELY Ann "Ken" Lucia Binay

By Maurice Arocho

IN ONE EVENT AT MAKATI Shangri-La ballroom last year, this gorgeous young woman with straight, long black hair and porcelain skin caught my eye. She was with a gentleman who was with the group of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and his wife, Dr. Elenita.

I walked up to Dr. Elenita and asked who this beauty was. She replied, "She's my daughter-in-law, married to my son Jojo." Then she introduced me to Kennely Ann "Ken" Lucia. I couldn't help but tell Ken how beautiful she looked.

Sadly, the adorable, love-ly, teenager

MAURICE AROCHO

CamSur, here we come!

In today's Cobra Ironman race, I may not be a top triathlete, but I will certainly look the part

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

TODAY IS THE DAY I BEGIN A 70.3-mile journey, one that seems to have started a thousand steps ago.

The Cobra Ironman 70.3 is being held today at the Camarines Sur Watersports Complex, better known as

GARMIN B1

Introducing the Ultimate FSP Makeover

Rustan's shoppers may apply for the NEW Rustan's FSP 2 card starting August 19, 2009 by visiting the Concierge at their favorite Rustan's Department Store.

The old FSP 2 card may be used to earn points and redeem ePurse purchases only until October 19, 2009. Beginning October 20, 2009, the old FSP card will be discontinued from the system and replaced with the new FSP 2 card. Visit the Rustan's Concierge to make sure your accumulated ePurse points are transferred to your new FSP 2 card. Transferred ePurse from the old FSP account must be redeemed within two (2) years or be considered forfeited.

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AYALA CENTER, CEBU

MARK Watkinson, Jaime Zobel and Mike Geoghegan, HSBC Group chief executive

KRISTINE Yang, Johanne Garcia, Chingpee Yao

SARAH Watkinson, Jill Beckingham, Sandy Prince-Bermudez

BUTCH Campos, George Yang, James Go

LIZZIE Zobel, Ollie Campos, Allene Limjoco

CamSur, here we come!

From page B1

CWC Condos. After months of intense training and, worse, having to skip dozens of late-night parties and social events, I'm joining over 500 triathletes as we all face our biggest physical challenge for this year.

The Ironman starts with a 3.9K swim around the manmade lake of the CWC. Head organizer Fred Uytengsu tells us the swim start is like jumping into a washing machine, except without the soap. Fred is also CEO of Alaska Milk, one of the key sponsors of the Ironman.

My super-fast swim coach, Ejay Camorgan, says I should try to be somewhere in the middle of the pack to get into a good swim pace early.

Meanwhile, my real concern is to make sure my brand new Specialized Squadron speed suit gets full visibility. Speedo GM Bagie Srivastava and I have been working for weeks to design a suit. This one has "Sea Princess" embroidered in fiery yellow on the suit.

After completing the swim, the journey moves to a 90K bike ride. The bike stretch leaves will only take seconds to jump out of the water and hop onto their bikes. My transition averages 20 minutes, between putting on my Rhino boots, goody pony-tails and Rolf's sunscreen.

My Bikram yoga instructor and Ironman advisor, Rochelle Tengco, is giving me a maximum of five minutes in change. I will post her photo in my transition area to remind me to move more quickly.

Yoga has kept me focused and calm about the race, and it relaxes my tired muscles. Bikram Yoga Manila owner Tristan Chua is also joining the Ironman, with injury teammates Jenna Lopez and Sharla Lardizabal. (For info on Bikram, check out www.bikramyogamanila.com.)

Local graphics

My new Kestrel Airfoil Pro SL bike, from Greys Lacsamahad of Bike Town Cyclery, is a top-of-the-line tri bike, cared by the likes of top triathletes Chris McCormack. My biggest issue with the bike is that it's covered blue and looks so serious.

I had my favorite graphics team, Blye and Norman Cruz of Asterics, embellish the bike and my aero helmet with matching local graphics and glitter.

Bike Town offers personalized bike fitting to make sure you and your bike are a perfect match. The fitting only helps if you still be biking long distances (Intl. on 8F12/13 for fitting schedules).

Biking is my weakest leg, so I have had to get extra training from bike coach Paolo DeSimone. He told me to make sure I can destroy this leg and that power gels are not enough. My biking partner, Golda Santos' son Jean Mabosa, will also be in Camsur today.

The bulk of my bike training has been with my brother-in-law Bobbo Valdes and his wife, spinning instructor Mona. Thanks to them, I know how to properly shift gears and endure long cycling hours.

With my bejeweled helmet and cool (ink-by shades, the 90K ride should be a breeze. I'm also lucky that I biked the course early this year as the Tour of Hope.

Outfit change

My bike-to-run transition should be faster. For me, it is basically just an outfit change to my bike running gear plus my Breast cap. Timex has sponsored my race and even gave me its top-of-the-line Timex watch and heart monitor. I may not be a top triathlete, but I will certainly look the part.

Audi, another of the Ironman sponsors, promises to follow me throughout the 21.1K run last leg of the race. This is where the race becomes a mental effort as much as physical. I hope to do as before the 10-mile mark my legs stop me. Anyway, if I drop out, I will be escorted back to the CWC in style.

Globe director Fernando Zobel de Ayala will be running the most watched of the triathletes today. I wonder if he will be wearing the Globe colors, since it's one of the premiere sponsors. Philippine Airlines is the official carrier and I am wondering whether any of the racers' children will be here.

My cousins Jaru Jon Ruffins and Amanda Cuepo are among the individual contestants, and even my hubby Beanie joined with two friends in form a relay team. He always says he can't do the full triathlon as he doesn't have a bike and is too busy with his job running PhilWeb.

It must be true, as they have just launched a new mobile game, Bid Wars. This game is called a reverse auction, where the lowest bidder wins, provided no one else matches the bid. Last Thursday, the winning bidder bid less than 95¢ for a new MacBook!

Since Thursday, an LCD TV and Ionics tin-

MARVIC del Rosario, Vicky Caldo

NIKKI Huang, Jay Gotengco

JOEY Pobre, Marco Stocker and Andrew Capuzen

RAYMOND Gutierrez, Rissa Manampal and Pauline Jose

ISABEL Bondoc

RANDY Francisco and Lee Robles

HANNA Guzman-Hansen, HSBC Premier AVP marketing; Chris Rooks, HSBC SVP marketing; Anya Cajucom; and Jamie Silva, HSBC assistant manager-marketing

DESI and Dinky Legaral, Irene Francisco and Mario Katigbak

HSBC corporate team for the Ironman Race Jonie Manuel, Mark Salvador and Mike Dee

BUILDING muscle during the Arnold Classic match

SWIMMING group Fiona Gregan, Laura Carpo, Joel Porter, Sea Princess coach Guy Cunningham, Amanda Carpo and Cinnea Glorioso

RUNNING buddies Maria Lorena, Philippine Elite member Arland Macatoh, Sea Princess coach Aki de Leon, Celda Santos and Joni Mabry

CHATTY Bocar

Nick Barcenas

Big discounts on undergarments at Metro Gaisano stores

METRO GAISANO STORES IN CEBU (Colon, Mandaue, Ayala Center Cebu, Legaspi City, Lucena City and Market! Market! Global City at Fort Bonifacio, and Iloilo - Room Hide It! The Undergarments Event" at the Ladies' Intimates and Men's Undergarments departments, Aug. 26-Sept. 16. Great discounts on a wide array of selections will be given.

We've a vacation for two at Pentahotel Bay Resort in Manila, Cebu, to be one of the 24 winners of a shopping fest subscription to 9 All and Cosmopolitan magazines. Get a free Mens Bodycast for every P300 purchase at the Ladies Intimates.

Palanca-winning plays at Philamlife Theater

"Tanong," a production of award-winning plays about contemporary Philippine society, will be staged at Philamlife Theater on Aug. 28, 7 p.m., and Aug. 29-30, 3 p.m. The plays cost P1,500, P1,000 and P500. For reservations, call 8162366, 8182301, 0916-5918915, e-mail tanong.manila@gmail.com, sebillena.sanchez@gmail.com or be directed by Dennis Marasigan and Floy Quintos with set and costume design by Tanya Ramasola.

Trumpets' 'N.O.A.H' opens Sept. 4

Trumpets presents a new musical for the whole family—"N.O.A.H. (No Ordinary Aquatic Habitat)." The story of Noah and his family takes a modern turn as it becomes a satirical commentary on contemporary problems, fun, funny and inspiring way. In this original musical, Trumpets at Mondeo Theater Sept. 4 and will run until Sept. 27 (Intl. 6384418, 0911-6943106, 0922-2106638, 891-9999).

'Spring Awakening' in Manila

Atlantis Productions is staging the Tony-winning musical by Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater, "Spring Awakening," at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Sept. 25-Oct. 18. Joaquin Valdes and Kelly Frances Luk lead the cast, under Chuck Antipuesto's direction (Intl. 893-7678, 8401137).

Forum on info centers

In line with the 30th Manila International Book Fair (MIBF) celebration, the Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines presents a forum on Net Generation Librarians on Sept. 16, 9-11 a.m., at the SMX Convention Center, meeting rooms 4 and 5. Atty. Anna Cumpilan, Pinoy City. The forum aims to promote awareness on the libraries/information centers' changing environment and technological innovations. Resource speaker is Johann Frederick Gabriel, president professor III of the University of the Philippines. E-mail asplboard@yahoo.com.ph; Edna M. Cuino (Bedal, Int. 8731371, Wilhelmina D.P. Lopez, 8906460, 8904121, Andrea Gaviola, 9064641, Edelina Gallo, 9324913).

Adidas sale

Adidas will hold a by-invitation-and-of-season sale Aug. 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Adidas Sport Performance Concept Store, The Podium, 4/F, Intl. 635. Up to 80-percent off on special Adidas lines. Contact Delroy Reyes, tel. 0917-891 1946, 6386673, e-mail quinn.reyes@greenfield.com.

MARGUERITE Lhuillier, Alice Woolbright, Jane Alegrado, Amparito Lhuillier and Iris Aranzaz

ARTS Council president Pedrin Garcia, interior/VP Maxwell Espino and trainee Marlinda Tan

Beautiful Ken

Print page B1

ing Ken passed on more than a week ago. She was six months pregnant when she was rushed to Medcare Medical Center. She remained there for three weeks, suffering countryless spotting. When it got worse, the doctors decided to do a caesarian operation.

Still, she had excessive bleeding due to placenta previa, and eventually went into cardiac arrest. The doctors tried to revive her.

I paid my respects and bid goodbye to this wonderful young lady (only 25) to their home in San Antonio Village.

While in the hospital, days before she passed away, Ken was said to have requested that if she died, she would like to be brought home for nine days of open viewing, dressed in her bridal gown and with happy music playing in the background.

She got her wish.

Ken was cremated Wednesday, the last day of the nine-day novena for her.

A great loss indeed for her friends, relatives, family and three children. The oldest is 6, the adoring image of her gorgeous mom. The second girl is 2, while the year-old boy was named by his dad, Councilor Avejon Biazz, as he expressed his thanks to those who consoled with the Biazz and Garcia families.

Their precocious baby girl, weighing a little over a pound and to be called formally after her mother, is still in the incubator.

We will surely miss you, our beautiful **Ken. May you rest in peace. Godbless**

Cebu's Arts Council marks 50th year with Gala Filipina

Cebu Cebu

Janice Piccerelli

TO LAUNCH THE ARTS Council of Cebu's 50th anniversary, the Cebu Consular Corps held a ball dubbed Gala Filipina at the ballroom of Casino Español de Cebu. More than 300 assembled, most of them in Filipiniana attire.

Wine can be an excellent ice breaker, and it was being passed around courtesy of the Honorary Consul of Lorna Ralph Lim Joseph from his Ralph's wine shop. The ballroom was beautifully decorated. A white wall had a backdrop depicting the 19th century Casa Busilio in Moalboal, southern Leyte.

Tables were draped with embroidered jusi. Centerpieces were of red and pink roses, with glowing candlelight diffused by lace shades. Rowelyn Mendezona gave the blow and in did Finley Chang and Pink Flore.

By 7:20 p.m., many had arrived and Nikki Hermosisima commenced that the brief program was about to begin. Welcome remarks were delivered by the Honorary Consul of Spain, chairman of the Cebu Consular Corps.

Arts Council president Pedrin Garcia spoke about the efforts of the organization in keeping culture and the arts alive in Cebu.

To continue doing so, there is a need to raise an endowment fund. The community, which is more prosperous than it cares to admit (that's Cebu for you) should really rally to this cause.

The sole sponsor of Gala Filipina was Cebu Holdings, Inc. (CHI, and a pair of Ayala Land), its president, Fernando Monzon said they were happy to be part of this event. Actually, they have been part of the Arts Council's events for many years, with cultural performances scheduled at the Ayala Center mall's Cinemgo theater, and at City Sports Club Cebu.

Three brief presentations followed. One was about the CHI 20th anniversary, while another was about the Ayala Center mall's Cinemgo theater, and at City Sports Club Cebu.

Three brief presentations followed. One was about the CHI 20th anniversary, while another was about the Ayala Center mall's Cinemgo theater, and at City Sports Club Cebu.

Antonio's various plazas have been sold out and a new one is about to be launched. "We will have more projects," said Jay Wee, head of Ayala Land's marketing and sales in Visayas and Mindanao.

By 8 p.m., dinner was served in three adjoining salons. There were salad bars, buffets with the Casino's specialties, four carving stations of the finest Angus beef, fruit platters and heaps of tempting desserts. CM Ed Tongco and everyone in his staff have been praised and congratulated.

Highlight

Filipiniana music was played while guests dined. By 9 p.m., the evening's highlight was ready to start... the entrance of officers and members of the Consular Corps, as well as officers and members of the Arts Council with their respective partners.

A **sma fina mich my wife Cecilia**, and we managed quite well despite a pinched nerve, primary somnolence and tendonitis just below my left knee, of all places. So one noticed the slight limp, or did they?

Then came Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation Ayrel Garcia, vice chair, Ilden Pantillonia. Honorary Consul of France Michel Lhuillier, treasurer; Amparito Lhuillier; Honorary Consul General of Austria Aristides Alegrado and daughter Anne Alegrado, Emcees and Mylene Benedicto, representing their partners Honorary Consul of Belgium Enrique and Helena Benedicto.

Honorary Consul of Germany Dr. Franz Feldmeyer-Boos and wife Elizabeth; Honorary Consul of Portugal **Samuel Chiemes and his wife**, Honorary Consul of Israel Emily Bernardino Cabcase; Honorary Consul of Romania Brand Benedicto and his wife Soterchyn; Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic and his wife Sol.

Ilc, Honorary Consul of Sweden **Jose Kalz and his wife Amaon**; Consulate Agent of the United States John Dendinger and Maria Lyra Tagaling.

The next group came from the Arts Council with president Garcia taking the arm of architect Maxwell Espino, vice president for internal affairs.

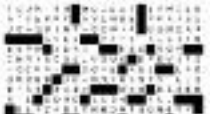
They were followed by VP for external affairs Dr. Helen Chio Yuseuna with **Jose Mo. Luis Yuseuna** with **Jose Mo. Luis Yuseuna**, secretary Heather Rioppy and trainee Chua; trainee Diane Chiong-**Mun Wong** with **Mun Wong** as the waltz with Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama; trainee Marylou Nuri with Rodney Rodriguez, trainee Annie Ostrache Rodric and **Ringlip Chang**; trainee Marlinda Anghelic Tan with her son Ian Erling Tan; and trainee Tarnim with Sharra Pendarin.

All couples later renewed the ballroom in formation for the opening waltz—Ilocos from the South to Sinsuat. This was a three-minute arrangement splendidly choreographed by Sandra Cuilla.

Many did not even go back to their seats after the waltz for Roland Suzarez and his group immediately segued with a stomping boogie-woogie.

When Roland took a breather the music didn't stop thanks to the great consolation jos of ace DJ Bong Soriano. Da chop that followed, Gala Filipina was the talk of the town.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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Tatak GaMitan

MU Health Caravan

Gawad Panitikang Pangkalusugan

Diamond Year Board Launch

DIAMOND YEAR LINE-UP OF ACTIVITIES

BRILYANTE: The Empowered Woman

August 28, 2009 6:30 PM

NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

a gala dinner fashion presentation presenting the country's renowned designers for the benefit of the Cervical Cancer Prevention (CECAP) Network Program

www.brilyante.info

Grand Diamond Ball

December 18, 2009 Sofitel Philippine Plaza

A grand party in celebration of the Sorority's 75 years of existence and a reunion for sisters from all over the country and the world.

The Health Education and Literacy (HEAL) Project

Access. Adapt. Articulate. Action.

1st Gawad Panitikang Pangkalusugan

A Nationwide Children's Book Writing Competition with the theme "Tabi-tabi" (Exploring Health Myths in the Philippines), directed to advocate heal th issues and themes to Filipino children in elementary level through the use of Filipino literature, art and creativity.

MU Health Caravan

Heading the Sorority's Campaign for W.E.A.L.T.H. (Women Empowerment And Literacy Through Health Education).

Mu Caravan spans 52 provinces nationwide. It consists of a series of public health lectures and foea geared towards promotion of health awareness.

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CRUZ-ENAGE NUPTIALS

Night inspired by precious jewels

By Maxine Arcache

CARLA CHRISTINA Enage and Alfredo Jose "Boy" Cruz said their "I dos" in an elegant, solemn ceremony at Santuario de San Antonio Church.

Carla looked radiant in a strapless gown by Randy Ortiz, which was exquisite in its simplicity. Inspired by her work at Ivory, where she handles the jewelry business, she picked a theme of rich jewel tones. Brilliant hues of sapphire, emerald, aventurine, turquoise, ruby and crystal glittered throughout the night.

The eye-catching invitations, with swirls of blue sapphire, was also designed by the bride.

Close family and friends were principal sponsors to Ismg Rodrigo Vazquez and Dr. Daniel Vazquez, Dr. Rhenda Ruiz and Mayor Jejomar Binay, Consul General Vilaire Zacher and Linda Holtzendo-Cagbabanse (represented by mother Norma Holtzendo), Helen Yuchengco-Tieu and Eljil Cuna.

The entourage was led by best man Aaron Calimero, the groom's first cousin and super pal. Ring and coin bearers were the groom's adorable nephew, Mateo and Alexei Bautista. The cute-pie flower girls were Adrienne Sidro, the groom's goddaughter, and Mia Silmon, the daughter of the couple's good friends Mr. and Mr Omar Yilmaz.

Matron of honor was Tahir Cruz-Bautista, the beautiful sister of the groom, escorted by dashing husband Andy Bautista. The groom's eight year-old nephew, Xavier Bautista, who was born the year the bride and groom fell in love, was an enchantingly cute usher as he escorted Carla down the aisle.

Dr. Paul Daniel, the groom's tutor since first grade at Southridge and confidante, was lector. The readings were by Dianne Cuna and Rhoda Salna, the groom's childhood pals.

Apres the church ceremony, a stylish reception was held at Conway's of Makati Shangri-La, where we were treated to an excellent menu and great music.

The groom's mother, the ane and lovely southern belle, Senory Ruby Cruz, magically transformed the venue into a jewel-colored haven. Conway's sparkled with drapes of shimmery organza, hanging crystals, turquoise lights. Its glow was mood-setting by the likes of precious gems Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, Rosie Moreno, Lourdes Theis, lawyer Antonio Meer and Sonia McCoy.

Family in attendance were the Gobernadors Aquilino Aida with Inis Aaron, Meriden and Aileen, Alex, Joy and Beatrice; the Cuyucas-Jaro Bell and Lito, and Bing; the Antipodi-Sio Vicky: Nana and Lyndee with Kit Carlos, Amanda, Kathryn, Paquito, Dolores and Tomas, Rita and Chiden with Kids Paco and Tyler, and Carlo and Mona. Also present were the couple's friends—Charlie and Cyndy Cuna, Howard Wise and Gaile Rolando, Dan and Sheille Carlos, Barbara and Dan Figueroa, Marla and Steve Mariano, Donna and Andrew Maverik, Leslie and Hank Ramos, Bea and Anna Francisco, Raymond and Bea Landau, Jaci and Lou Berenguer Tesia—who had a great time with the sumptuous feast of Shangri-La's finest gastronomic creations.

Especially executed for the fun occasion were jewel-hued shooters which were served teasing, which totally got the revelers on a roll.

Dinner entertainment was provided by NIAS and the Strings Minstrels. The party then moved up an IV and the Metropolitan took center-stage with Anne Curtis, Jonathan Sarreal and Isadora Allen Mackintosh, Bob Biddlon, Wise Santiago, and the whole South East Asia Student and Home group—dancing 'til dawn.

Other special guests were Shangri-La's EVP Bert Okimoto and vivacious wife Margarita, Conway's Manager Sara Bonkiste was on hand with his entire staff.

For keepsakes, we all were home with a jewel of our own—an amazing giant blue sapphire key-chain ring, inspired by the bride's engagement ring.

So, the bejeweled evening with 200 guests, super swell guy-together by talented wedding coordinator Rita Sy, was magical and spectal. So here of all, Boy and Carla were home with the most precious gemstones in the world...each other.

Clients to the new Mr. and Mr Boy Cruz!

WALPAG their love with "I do's"—Alfredo Jose "Boy" Cruz and Carla Christina Enage

TRIPOD and Bonita Go, Bonita Shop; Ruby Cruz and Ruby and Ricardo Go

CARLA discussing Xavier Bautista, the groom's adorable nephew

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to ate.inc.comm, 6th flor 2050, Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City. E-mail to *lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph*. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

TAN-GREDO

Ramsarah C. Tan, son of William Sangalangeen and Rona Go, exchanged vows with Sheri Anne Oliveda, daughter of Roberto and Rosemarie Oliveda, on June 21 at St. Richards Basilica Minore and Redemptorist Shrine. The bride wore an unworn layered bouffant skirt in all-over, flat-laid makado silk fully embroidered and embellished in dainty crystal beads, designed by Leonard Go.

DAVID-REYES

Angelo David, eldest son of Arturo and Aluisia David, will wed Beth Reyes, eldest daughter of Eduardo and Leonora Reyes, on Aug. 30. Hundays at the Basilica of San Sebastian, Manila. Dinner reception will follow at Sherwood Gardens, QC.

Eric Mondragon and Heidi Bolitha will do the hair and makeup of the bride and some of the entourage. Fashion and event director Raymond Villanueva will do the overall concept and direction of the event. The bride and groom will both wear Edelle Raol. duo creations.

CAYETANO-DEBUT

Maria Cypres Cayetano, daughter of Norberto and Cypres Cayetano, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at Bambini Mindoro Pandoro Room, Bellini Philippine Plaza Manila, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

CEREZO-VISCARRA

Emiliano Cruz Cerezo, son of Emerito Valdez Cerezo and Herminia Cruz Cerezo, married Emily Viscarra, daughter of Ricardo DC Viscarra and Rimina Mesaris, on July 4 at St. Peters Church, Silver Blvd., Mandaluyong City. The ceremony was officiated by Fr. Raimundo Tiamson. Reception followed at Shark Wash Golf and Country Club, Shark Wash Road, Mandaluyong. The bride's gown was designed by Wenda Tin.

SANCHEZ-COMPLETO

Richard Sanchez, son of Rodrigo M. Sanchez and Mercedes V. Sanchez, recently married Gloria Completo, daughter of Celestino Josefina C. Completo, at St. Ildefonsus Parish Church, Bulacan. Reception was at Real Cruz Pavilion, Sapang Pond, San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Photography was by Theo Villan of Printshoppe Digital. The bride's hair and makeup was by Apple Miranda of Apple Salon, gown by Cinderella Lazaro of Fashion Boutique. Wedding planner was Jessi of JE Exclusive.

ALAMIL-LOS BAÑOS

Laurence B. Alamil, son of Roger and Evangeline Alamil, will wed Regina R. Los Baños, daughter of Gil and Maria Edna Los Baños, on Sept. 18 at the Our Lady of the Gun Parish in Daraga, Albay. Reception will follow at The Centennial Convention Center in Legazpi City.

Should she demand child support from her ex-boyfriend?

DEAR EMILY

I just turned 22 and my friends still call me immature and inexperienced. I am a single mom with a two-year-old daughter. The father of my daughter went abroad to try his luck and is now an illegal alien in the US. He is planning to marry an American citizen. I am okay with that, but my worry is he is actually telling her a neighbor of mine and that is hurting me. He won't even add my name on his friend's list on an Internet social networking site.

I sent him an e-mail that we need to move on with our lives. I don't want to be a hindrance to his plans. My problem is, though he sends P4,000 as monthly support through his sisters, our baby needs more. I am not in good terms with his family and I don't tell them anything.

Communicating with him really hurts me, so I decided to stop contacting him. I still love him and even like because my daughter looks exactly like him.

Being the only child and breadwinner of my sick and old parents, and being only a contractual worker in a hotel, I'm afraid to lose his child support. But we're not married and I know I don't have the right to demand anything from him.

IMMATURE MOM

Accept the fact that you and your ex-boyfriend are known emotionally.

He has moved on with his life now before you even thought of telling him.

You cannot make any demands for yourself anymore. Your time has passed.

However, your child with him is another story. Whether there is still love involved is no other here nor there. But you have the right to exercise the rights of your child for her.

Though you claim your daughter looks like her father, that will not hold in the court of law. Have you established paternity? Will you subject your child to undergo DNA testing? That is very important because if proven, you can demand financial support from him....com mensurate to his economic-earning capacity. This will embolden you to line up to his family who will have to accept your daughter in their own flesh and blood....like it or not.

Forget love. Forget hate. Show your maturity as a thinking mother by focusing on the problems at hand. Play your cards well. It's your daughter's future that is in stake here.

Send your e-mail to emarcado@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

Sweet fruit plucked from the Big Apple

By Roberto Caballero
Contributor

GOD HAS CHOSEN to pluck a big shiny apple from the Big Apple's tree of the significant and magnificent—Reynaldo "Ronnie" Garibon Alejandro.

For young readers, you may not know him, but for those of us who had the pleasure of knowing and loving him, he flung open his big Bleecker Street apartment to no many least if he didn't know the person was well, when endorsed by a friend, he would take him in, give him a bed and green food with full trust and joy.

If you could locate the guest book in his bedroom that, you'd find very "droppable" names. On my last visit I flipped through the pages and saw scribbled such names as Lance Gokongwei, Solengon, Meiching Lucio, Jessica Zafra, Shelly Tesoro and, on my request, Emmanuel Rajo (who stayed for a whole year while he finished his Harvard doctoral scholarship).

Other entries: Marla Fonda (Choreographer), Ricky Rivera, Bobby Linkletter, Pata and Tita Trenor, Lisa Marsjin Elizalde (before her triumphant Kirov Ballet stint), Roberson Alcaraz, Richard Heinrich and the late Lady Victoria Yorke, Marissa Takahashi (Tokyo's ad whiz), Josie Boning.

With Sarsen Place fund managers Lalola Adibara Bermani, Alejandro raised funds for Manuel Rodriguez for during his struggling years.

'City my living room'

He'd press a set of keys into the guest's hands, then challenged him to hit the village streets, walk through Washington Square and plunge into 5th Avenue, moving from the iconic No. 1 5th Avenue where Aaron Boyle resides.

On that, he momentarily electrified by the thrilling energy of the Big Apple. With crossbreezes, Ronnie would proclaim his mantra, "My flat is my bedroom and the city is my living room."

He'd challenge everyone to adopt the walking-even who his bike—"Don't be an inorganic and touristy by taking taxis, you're in the right city (cite area, single, flat), say 'hello' or pull back when outside is flung at you."

Reinvention his nickname

Alejandro evolved from a theatre choreographer to a New York Public Library librarian and to published writer with over 20 books bearing his name. He also earned a chef's toque with a few Zagat reviews for innovative catering and became a raved-feeding saviour for this paper, covering the New York beat.

He bought a video camera and threatened to be a video-rapher, when even if a simple cell phone and many pen-friendly challenged him.

As dyed-in-the-wool foodie, he'd take friends and visitors to high-tab and ridiculously affordable but memorable restaurants. At Shanghai Joe's, we put up with the coarse manner-handling skills for the joy of a cigar with broth in the seasoned bun.

Indulging my whim to try the controversial Le Cirque, Ronnie fussed me easy with "Do you have any cancellations for lunch?" And the pretty, smiling receptionist, after giving us a nanosecond once-over, cheerfully chirped, "Oh, so you want to be with us for lunch today...but, of course, gentlemen!"

During the meal, I simply had to lift my head and try to catch the eye of a server, when the black-eyed maitre'd, mouthlessly signaled a waiter to spoon the bullet to my side, whispering into my ear "How many we help you, Sir?"

Ronnie would be wide-eyed in telling me, "Now that's chic Manhattan-grade service, isn't it?"

Or we'd sneak into "one of Manhattan's best-kept secrets," Takadelmaya. Tea Room, where chic PASSY "ladies who lunch" elegantly handled their shepherds and sipped green tea like Japanese royals.

Artist New Yorkers

Even at the crack of dawn, he would hassle me on my cute-as-convertible bed, which had a view of the Empire State building, to say, "Drink, we have to see the fabulous hues on Easter Sunday, more by 6, for New Yorkers, after receiving services, as they mingle among friends in the middle of 5th Avenue, which is closed for the morning."

"Just cool with appreciation," he would say "or learn to reclaim. 'Commanding! Beautiful!'"

He would moan in disappointment at how most Filipinos, maybe being innately shy, would never share affirmation or applaud when it beautiful or good.

Always the work-horse (he was multitasking even before the term became an earnest among techies), he'd invite me to join a meeting in the grand offices of the Asia Foundation. Ronnie was a "connected" and knew how to reach people who could influence his projects, or help someone else solicit their cause.

He would momentarily help Josie Datang get young artists to have their shows at the Philippine Center. Or wrangle privileged tickets from his circle of monumentally rich friends with deep pockets and big hearts for Broadway plays impossible as get into. He tugged on Bill and Lily Gennaro O'Boyle to produce tickets for me to "Phantom of the Opera" when the next available seats were six months away. He made appeals to Marsha Cohen's, who sparkle on checks not only for Rizzoli, but also for artists in distress.

He would laugh and squeal with delight over some bit of gossip exchanged with such press legends as Lilia Leguena and Ethel Pimbol, such as that story about then First Lady Hillary Clinton and Martha Stewart being admitted to prison for cheating in a library.

I also remember Ronnie receiving some ideas by Francis Barbieri, at booths at Ikat Hacienda Reyes and the late Ramon Fernandez.

When I had the privilege to accompany by hosting him to my South Cyprian Maltese apartment for his usual two-month sabbaticals, a phrase was always included in my guest room to be could have his breakfast in bed, grab the morning news, talk on the phone, play catches from all the papers, then hit the transport boys.

I would hear him converse briefly at the TV when he clicked what he saw or heard. "Disgusting! (Liar). "The, yo-dong ever." and I would only laugh in amusement.

He would have a stream of visitors, especially book developers: his energy to create and network would enhance a writer's chemistry.

Collaborators

His cherished collaborations, most especially with Ilocano Rosmos of National Bookstores (his partner for his Filipinisms series) and Chito Manalo-gal of Trafford (who supported his advocacy for a cleaner Pasig River).

He also cherished his collaborations with Anita Magsaysay-Ho, with whom he had found a sensitive kindred heart in his family ties, and who would try to keep him well as she made a portrait for him during his many courtesy calls with Doris Magsaysay.

With Marietta Jaimee who shepherded Ronnie's New York cookbook-memoir cohorts to record the concepts.

With Silen Perlas and Isabanal Luna, who always volunteered to be publicist and photographer of Ronnie's book projects, Benjie Gollinet, his friend way back during GMT days; and Nelson Navarro, steady source of political inside-dope.

I myself was Ronnie's early collaborator in dreams. We had a choreographer collaborations with Tessy de Dhiyni, and Irving Gomez Moreno of the Hariraya Dance Company for the ballet "Legend of The Sunstones," which was critically acclaimed.

Every when energized by his New York dreams for reviving away from his mainland chit, he would exclaim, "This is to the mind chit!"

Ronnie had long proposed for this printing. When talking around Manhattan, he were under his shirt a huge sequitur, which would have his names, address, and person to contact in case of any emergency. Over lattes in his Bleecker Street flat, he would point at the Rizzoli Books a few blocks away, saying, "All my answers have been paid for, years ago."

He chuckled going to sudoku, to enter Kindle—Nemo: Pudla, his theatrical mother, Mike Ramos, his co-author in his last books, Virgil Calugastan, a gourmet buddy, and myself—plus a fabulous dinner to celebrate his memory in our hearts. No eulogies, no shuts, no confits.

The best of apples are plucked in the prime of their perfection and sweetness. And in the Big Apple, New York habitats, the Big Apple will always be associated with "Ronnie."

ALEJANDRO with the author, enjoying New York.

Ronnie Alejandro has died. Long live his life and memory!

HOLDING collectable books he authored

Ruby Tuazon celebrates sexy 60

By Larry Lanton
Contributor

AT THE POC, one high noon, took place the catered yet elegant all-girl birthday party of beloved high society doyenne Ruby Tuazon. She was in a silvery silk shantung Chanel suit by Karl Lagerfeld. Msgr. Josefino Ramirez celebrated Mass.

The special buffet was prepared by Glenda Barretto from her forever delicious, glorious Via Mare. The Ladies Who Lunch decided to do away with calorie-counting as they partook of Glenda's signature roasted suckling cochinillo, capitan, and repeat of salads from upside shrimp to scrumptious enchiladas. There were three decadent desserts and a birthday cake.

But the real star of the celebration was Ruby's 11-year-old granddaughter Kayla Lavigne.

"After 20 years of having three sons in my life, my late husband Butch and my two sons, I finally got my request from God. Now I can buy pink dresses, ribbons and other feminine accessories, like to no-dear to me," said a beaming Ruby while strong beside her mom, Norma, who can pass for her sister.

Simply stuck out all the lovely ladies who made Ruby's natal day very special.

ADMITS Co., Fr. Joseph Hoang, Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, Ruby Tuazon and Jonny Magsaysay

BABY Posadas

BERNIE Lavigne

JENNY Hopkins, Vicenta and Bernardo Rivera

DOLLY Ealang, Ramona Cimena, Bru Hernandez

ZENY Cruz

LOLAS Cruz, Benjie Beltran, Mia Akol and Glenda Barretto

CELY Castro and Shirley Ty

Interactive online tour showcases 'Etihad Experience'

ETIHAD AIRWAYS, THE UAE'S national airline, has launched an enhanced new online microsite which showcases its award-winning in-flight and ground experience.

"Experience Etihad," a fully interactive 360 tour available at etihadairways.com, offers visitors to the site a unique insight into the airline's services, across all three aircraft cabins, as well as the services offered in airport lounges and limo and coach services. The micro-site can be viewed directly from the etihadairways.com homepage just by clicking on the "interactive tour" link.

The micro-site also features video interviews with Etihad Airways' onboard head chef Peter Hodge (see image), an award-winning service that delivers a five-star hospitality experience.

The site is currently available for use in three language options: English, French and German, with Arabic to follow soon. It can be accessed on all levels of internet connection.

In addition to the micro-site at etihadairways.com, a desktop version of "Experience Etihad" has been created for the airline's sales executives to use with clients both in the office as well as on mobile, for outreach at trade shows.

Phil. Travel Exchange 2009

At least 183 pr inbound travel wholesalers and tour operators from 27 countries around the world are joining the Philippines Travel Exchange (Philex) 2009 to see which of the archipelago's tourism destinations, products and services they can offer their clients back home. They will be in Manila for the Philex 2009, slated for the SMX Convention Center Sept. 2-4.

Philex participants are coming from Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Holland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Middle East, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam.

Organized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) through its marketing arm Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. (PCVC), Philex is an annual marketing event designed to globally strengthen the country's tourism brand and encourage local participants to promote affordable and competitive tourism packages.

More information can be obtained from the Philex 2009 Secretariat at (+632) 470-2100, (+632) 470-3000, 525-8989 & 21 local 203 and 208, e-mail philex2009@dotpcvc.gov.ph; website: www.philexpo.net; and philexpo.

Travel Briefs

OUR HOME LAUNCHES ITS DESIGNER'S CLUB

Home Life host and interior Design Consultant Marlon Faustino Montenegro created a modern dining set up with Asian touches using the Pendleton dining set.

TV personality Daphne Oseña Paez.

Interior designers Lolly Smith-Rick, Carmen Lim Regala and Eric Francisco.

Marlon Montenegro, Tessa Prieto Valdes and Teresa Alfonsign.

Daily Press, the Philippine's first landscape architect.

Interior Designer Joy Gladys Ejercito designed a living room with a modern and contemporary theme with the Atlanta 2 seater and 3 seater sofas on focal.

When the current interest in creating stylish, functional, and distinct spaces, home furniture and accessories have become fashion items. Homes, the pet-family of architects and interior designers, who like celebrity fashion designers and chefs have achieved rock star status.

With this in mind, Our Home, the country's leading furniture lifestyle store, recently launched the Our Home Prestige Card at the SM Megamall. A spin-off from the immensely popular SM Advantage Prestige Card, it is issued to select interior designers and architects to help them select items for their creative projects. With the card, they can earn points as they purchase. And will enable them to TEK Bonus Points after they have purchased P200,000 worth of items at Our Home. These bonus points are redeemable anytime at any Our Home store and all all accredited clients earning partners of SM Prestige within the promo period, which is now until February 28, 2010. They will also get free 2-year extension of the SM Prestige Card.

Our Home's Leather Collection was also launched during the event, and celebrity interior designer Tessa Prieto Valdes, together with interior designer Joy Ejercito and design consultant Marites Montenegro unveiled their own special spaces with items from the leather collection. Marketing Communications Inc. AVP for Marketing Holy Hilarino, Senior Manager for Prestige Card Sheryl Calma, Our Home Division Merchandising Coordinators Cora Nuna and Our Home Marketing Manager Joy Logico joined them during the event.

Tessa put together a living room as colorful and vibrant as her personality using the 2 and 3 seater Mirocam sofas. Joy, the youngest in the board of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, designed a modern space using Atlanta 2 and 3 seater sofas. Marites worked around the 6-piece Pendleton dining set to create a casually elegant setting.

The Prestige Card for interior Designers and Architects is one of the many exciting perks at Our Home, the lifestyle store where one can get great designs at great prices. The Leather Collection is available at Our Home stores in Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, the Block at SM City North EDSA, V-Mall, SM City San Lazaro, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Bacoor, Pampanga, Lucena, Baguio, Marikina, Clark, Sta. Rosa, Batangas, and Dasmarinas in Luzon; as well as Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and the North Wing of SM City Cebu in the Visayas area.

At the ceremonial awarding of the Our Home Prestige Card, from left, Marketing Convergence Inc., AVP for Marketing Bey Hilarino, Our Home Division Merchandising Manager Cora Nuna, Our Home Marketing Manager Joy Logico, Senior Manager for Prestige Card Sheryl Calma, interior Designer Joy J. Ejercito and House Life host and interior designer Tessa Prieto Valdes.

Celebrity interior designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes created a colorful living room vignette that matches her personality, with the Mirocam 2 seater and 3 seater sofa as the main subject.

Joy J. Ejercito with interior Designer Ma. Luisa Diaz Garcia, Architecture graduate Evenstone Co. and Philippine Association of Landscape Architects president Dicky Atienza.

Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Joy J. Ejercito, joined by guests Rep. Gov. Boni Jaime, Jennie Jaime and PHD Executive Director for Exhibits & Conventions Arch. Ogie Carlegal.

Arkitekturo.com's Arch. Jenick and Jay Adrian.

Arch. Paulo Pineda and Cheryl Encinas of Pacon Engineering Services.

LUXE LEATHER FINDS AT OUR HOME

Have a seat for dinner with this Calgary dining set with bar cream faux leather chairs that also come in black color.

Art glass dining with the Palmdale 6 seater dining set with black leather seats.

Sweet Dreams. Glasgow bed frame comes in black, brown and beige colors.

Home Life host and Interior Designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes accented the Mirocam 3 and 3 seater sofas with colorful accessories and throw pillows.

Fun rooms Mini-a-design consultant and Home Life host Marlon Faustino Montenegro designed a dining area that highlights this 6-seater Pendleton dining set with faux leather seats.

Leather furniture used to be associated with men's dens, matching the dark wood-en interiors with a masculine edge. With furniture design innovations and more and more people appreciating this type of leather, gone are the days when leather furniture goes beyond the old boys club style into sleek, contemporary designs.

At Our Home, the lifestyle store where one can get great designs at great prices, leather takes a leap in design and color. While blacks and browns continue to add drama to any room, there are also white leather designs available. Leather furniture also goes beyond the living room, making their existence statements in the dining room and the bedroom. It also has space saving designs for condo and townhouse living.

As leather is a very good furniture investment, caring for it is essential. Here are some tips on how to clean and care for your leather collection from Our Home.

- Regularly dust, vacuum or slightly dampen a soft cloth and wipe the leather to remove dust and other dirt, paying attention to the frequently used areas like arms, seats, and back.
- Use only a good-class quality leather cleaner and moisturizer, so as not to hurt the leather.
- Avoid placing your leather furniture under direct sunlight to avoid premature fading.

The Leather Collection is available at Our Home stores located at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, The Block at SM City North EDSA, V-Mall, SM City San Lazaro, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Bacoor, Pampanga, Lucena, Baguio, Marikina, Clark, Sta. Rosa, Batangas, and Dasmarinas in Luzon; as well as Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and the North Wing of SM City Cebu.

Luxe Living. Roman Jambrei 2 seater and 3 seater sofas. Also available in black and beige.

Ingrid roman leather 2 and 3 seater sofas. Also available in black.

A living room set-up designed by interior Designer Joy J. Ejercito, highlighting the black Atlanta 2 seater and 3 seater sofas. Also available in brown and beige colors.

Unwind on this tan 3 seater recliner with console, available in black and brown.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Defining the D word
—or the lack thereof /C2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

How Jinkee knocks out Manny

'Malambing [si Manny]. Kahit sa mamanning tao. Kaya nga nami-misinterpret siya ng mga ibang bahae siguro. Friendly, mahawnk... Pero kapag galit ako, talagang tahimik lang siya. Mapapaawa ka talaga e." (Laughter)

AS THE WIFE OF A world-famous boxing champ, Jinkee Jamora-Pacquiao couldn't avoid the spotlight. Constantly being in the public eye made her realize the importance of always looking her best.

Despite her husband Manny's being against cosmetic surgery, Jinkee underwent GastroLipo after giving birth to her third child. After her fourth pregnancy, she lost the excess weight, without surgery, with Bebe Tore's assistance.

Perez 35 kg, the new endorser of Bebe Medical Group now weighs 46kg.

On the day of *Fit She Stuff*'s photo shoot, Jinkee arrived with her, she was wearing emerald-cut diamond studs (5 carats each), a 3-carat ring and Rolex watch. She considers them "an investment."

The watch, Jinkee says, was a birthday gift and at the same time, a "peace offering from Manny."

With her winning figure and new-found fame, it's no surprise that Jinkee has been showered with admiration and swamped with offers to join shows like her husband and mother-in-law, Divine Dicquiao.

But she chooses to be with and mother first. She takes care of the home, guides her growing children Jimwell, Michael, Princess and Queen Elizabeth, and tends to the call of support for Manny.

In this interview, Jinkee candidly talks about her dreams, life with Manny and their love life.

Are you happy with the way you look now?

Happy na ako sa mood kasi dumadami ang endorsements. Sa talagang good na yung sa akin na hindi ko-conflict sa, ganyan nga dapat eh.

How are being weight and stature?

Forty-eight, ganoo ko naga 45, eh. Kasi dati 55 ng nanga-dress.

How long height mo?

5'1.

Make-diet ka pa?

Oo, wala nang diet. Parerot na yata ang diet eh. Hindi pwedeng kainin. Fruits and vegetables lang. Wala akong kinakain na mga matatabaho'ng, wala lang eh.

How does the Bebe Diet in practice work?

Wala lang breakfast. Dinner lang lunch and dinner na kasama kami.

How often the ingestion?

Every day, for 24 days.

Gaano kadi-kipot?

Anliit.

How many pounds did you lose?

Seventeen pounds in 24 days.

Hindi ka nagsa-workout?

Hindi. Babalanse lang sa Gastro.

Nagpa-breast augmentation ka din ba?

Ha, ha malditas, nagpa-Allure ako. Di ko kaya pasok sa mayayaba, kailangan ano ng konting tahi sa likod di sakin bertid.

Your sons?

Oo, original ito! (Laughter) Gusto nang kitain? (Laughter) Allot nga sila nagkapagawa ako ng-dieting. Hindi, gusto talaga.

Ang-tamika na?

Thirty pounds kasi si Manny. Ten years na kami married.

Where is the gossamer coming from, ex-appearance ba, ex-Manny pala?

Kwento ko sa kwa. (Laughter) Just-just kasi bahay lang ako, hindi naman nagpapa-drama.

Ano sa iyo nanggaling yung narration, 'Inlove si na Manny ako' na nagpapalong nagpapatawa ka?

Sa akin. Mahilig na talaga ako sa drama, sa makeup. Noong high school hanggang college, naiinvolve ako sa mga beauty pageant. Ako ang representative ng school noon.

Sinusubkuan ka ba ni Manny na magpapayat ka?

Hindi naman. Sinasabi naman niya sa akin lang na chubby. (Laughter) Pero siguro hindi din naman, sabi niya sa bahay ka lang, okay lang kasi. Pero kapag sinabihan nila ng ano, ano-ahasin nila, ano-ano'ng ano. (Laughter)

Ano pang pinagawa nan kay Bebe?

Ano-ah Lipo. Allow ng pagpatoks ko, kay Princess, nagpa-lipo ako.

MORE ICI

How Jinkee knocks out Manny

From page E1

Ming parte?

Ayun, kasi, siguro and lower sa tiyan. Kasi laging nagtatanong gid ko ng late sa army, bakingan ba yung kasi mo dito sa gilid. Pero pantay lahat, kasi kasal-sinta dito. Yung sa tiyan talaga, pumasin ako e, kailangang tanggalin.

Siyang say ni Manny okay lang sa kanya?

Nakinisan lang niya kapag tapos na. Tinanong niya nung bodyguard ko. Sooong kinis daw niya sa tiyan, yung mga kasama ko dun nagsabi. Alam mo naman lalaki-lalaki. Hindi ko naman lasukan iyan sa Diyos at saka may awas na ako at mga anak.

Hindi kaya magkaka-crush?

Mawa sila, pero hanggang doon lang lahat, hanggang titigan lang sa tiyan.

May mga nagsa-approach ba na nanghihingi ng number mo?

Di, meron sa Facebook, madami. (Laughter) Tapos may mga nagpapa-add sa akin, nakiusap. "Mam ko si Manny, wewantan ko ba chance nakatotot bello." (Laughter)

Seksi ka ba?

Medyo. (Hindi naman sobrang seksi. Hindi lahat naman ako-seksi ako. Pero kapag nagsuot ako nung may bodice ka-ly sa. Tapos slang-shoot pa nila kunggang malaking awas.

Kapag ganoon nakaseksi ka?

Di(Ano naman ako every day. Siguro hindi na. Godness lang din. Kung hindi naman ka siya, ako lang din hindi naman siya. "Kaw ka, hindyap pero ang wonder mo kasino." (Laughter)

Pinka-running-naka-seksi?

Pinka-naked. (Laughter) Sinong celebrity ang nakamit?

Isa lang. Miller Lite-Jackie-san, nagi-Gwam din iyon.

Mas-sexy kung nakaseksi-effect?

Mawa naman. Ang sasay sa kanti ni Manny, nosa siya e.

Pero ikaw ganoon ba?

Okay lang, pero in ngayon pantay-pantay na ang tiyan ko. Kasi may mga anak ako, ayan sila. "Sang time na pano sa kanila, nakikong nagsuot-suot ba.

Kumusta naman ang relasyon sa ninyo ni Mommy Dionisia, okay naman kayo?

Oo naman. Lagi sa ting tinatawag-yan. (Laughter)

Siyang siga-siga naman ang sense-niya? Sagisa-balikbayan-ka ang ba?

Hindi. Siguro sa parehas, kailangan ko kasi yung pantdyo. Kasi siya yung mga anak niya, okay. Kapag si Manny, madaling araw nung umuwi. Lolol, nagsigisi siya.

Hanggang ngayon?

Oo.

Ang parents ni Manny ka-isa?

Hanggang ngayon, hindi sila nagpapansinan. Mahiwi naman sana siya, sabisch lang.

Nakita mamaya ang conflict na dapat nga hanti?

Wala naman. Mahiwi naman yung mga anak ko. (Laughter) Yung pangalawa kong lalaki, medyo-nasipang siya. May pinanas siya sa school na pinalalaki niya ng chismis niya. Nisabi niya ng gaming sa kanya. Sa sa-pinal yung lalaki, ako ang nagbayad sa capital. Kasi pinalalaki niya dun yung work niya.

Anong-emabi mo sa gamit? Nagsalitan ko yung sinabi ko. Hindi ko pala dapat gawin iyon. Sinabi ko sa school, malapit lang naman. Pwede ngang lakarin mula sa bahay. Tapos ni-memo, Pero kapag may ipamamanas ako, yung pupe na lang.

Tawanan-lang ganoon-a ng homework?

Mmm.

Hindi ka man-nakatulong sa mga kids?

Hindi naman ako ang may ng ganoon.

Mandarin ka ba?

Mandyo. Hindi naman ako nagsasalita ng Mandarin sa akin kasi siya. Kapag kausapin, kausapin ako. At saka baka nasa-isip ko kapag nagsasalita ako ng Mandarin, ako nakakalimutan ko. Iyon nagsasalita ako ng-yan.

Gamcon talaga siya mandi hindi pa siya-sikat?

Gamcon na siya. Gamcon siya nainsidic. Iyon ang hirisan ng nanay nila, na mag-nanay kahit nandoon ako-ly sa-pagsasalita. Kasi nandoon ako-ly sa-pagsasalita. Ako-nakakalimutan ko. Iyon nagsasalita ako-ly sa-yan.

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Nakita mamaya ang conflict na dapat nga hanti?

Wala naman. Mahiwi naman yung mga anak ko. (Laughter)

'Nagkakaanak nga kami usually after a fight. Mas aggressive sila after the fight.' (Laughter)

Yung pangalawa kong lalaki, medyo-nasipang siya. May pinanas siya sa school na pinalalaki niya ng chismis niya. Nisabi niya ng gaming sa kanya. Sa sa-pinal yung lalaki, ako ang nagbayad sa capital. Kasi pinalalaki niya dun yung work niya.

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Mandyo. Hindi naman ako nagsasalita ng Mandarin sa akin kasi siya. Kapag nagsalitan ko ng Mandarin, ako nakakalimutan ko. Iyon nagsasalita ako-ly sa-yan.

Sobra ka ba?

Medyo. (Hindi naman sobrang seksi. Hindi lahat naman ako-seksi ako. Pero kapag nagsuot ako nung may bodice ka-ly sa. Tapos slang-shoot pa nila kunggang malaking awas.

Kapag ganoon nakaseksi ka?

Di(Ano naman ako every day. Siguro hindi na. Godness lang din. Kung hindi naman ka siya, ako lang din hindi naman siya. "Kaw ka, hindyap pero ang wonder mo kasino." (Laughter)

Pinka-running-naka-seksi?

Pinka-naked. (Laughter) Sinong celebrity ang nakamit?

Isa lang. Miller Lite-Jackie-san, nagi-Gwam din iyon.

Mas-sexy kung nakaseksi-effect?

Mawa naman. Ang sasay sa kanti ni Manny, nosa siya e.

Pero ikaw ganoon ba?

Okay lang, pero in ngayon pantay-pantay na ang tiyan ko. Kasi may mga anak ako, ayan sila. "Sang time na pano sa kanila, nakikong nagsuot-suot ba.

Kumusta naman ang relasyon sa ninyo ni Mommy Dionisia, okay naman kayo?

Oo naman. Lagi sa ting tinatawag-yan. (Laughter)

Siyang siga-siga naman ang sense-niya? Sagisa-balikbayan-ka ang ba?

Hindi. Siguro sa parehas, kailangan ko kasi yung pantdyo. Kasi siya yung mga anak niya, okay. Kapag si Manny, madaling araw nung umuwi. Lolol, nagsigisi siya.

Hanggang ngayon?

Oo.

Ang parents ni Manny ka-isa?

Hanggang ngayon, hindi sila nagpapansinan. Mahiwi naman sana siya, sabisch lang.

Nakita mamaya ang conflict na dapat nga hanti?

Wala naman. Mahiwi naman yung mga anak ko. (Laughter)

Ang pangalawa kong lalaki, medyo-nasipang siya. May pinanas siya sa school na pinalalaki niya ng chismis niya. Nisabi niya ng gaming sa kanya. Sa sa-pinal yung lalaki, ako ang nagbayad sa capital. Kasi pinalalaki niya dun yung work niya.

Anong-emabi mo sa gamit? Nagsalitan ko yung sinabi ko. Hindi ko pala dapat gawin iyon. Sinabi ko sa school, malapit lang naman. Pwede ngang lakarin mula sa bahay. Tapos ni-memo, Pero kapag may ipamamanas ako, yung pupe na lang.

Tawanan-lang ganoon-a ng homework?

Mmm.

Hindi ka man-nakatulong sa mga kids?

Hindi naman ako ang may ng ganoon.

Mandarin ka ba?

Mandyo. Hindi naman ako nagsasalita ng Mandarin sa akin kasi siya. Kapag nagsalitan ko ng Mandarin, ako nakakalimutan ko. Iyon nagsasalita ako-ly sa-yan.

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Nakita mamaya ang conflict na dapat nga hanti?

Wala naman. Mahiwi naman yung mga anak ko. (Laughter)

PHOTO: "Nag-kaya-ra ay-sawsaka-kwentuwan de-kaya."

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN DAVID LAUREL

ka-off ang phone. Pero away ka-on more. Mga 2007 iyon.

Ang pagsasalita ni Manny siguiyon ay isang malaking-sigod, which is positive. Hindi ka ba-nakatakot?

Hanungkat ako na (Emocks on wood) baka matalo siya-ehh. Nosense siya kay-sasay. Minsan kasi, kapag kakausapin mo siya napa-nakatot siyang isalop, parang-wala lang siya. (Action sensors-in-laughter). Parang hindi siya makakaintindi-kung-ganoon siya.

Anong-tatakbuhan-nina-ngayon?

Congressman-sa-hanggare.

Paano yung-career-niya-as-a-boxer?

Tiss your kasi, kasi sa-yung fight siya. Ayaw-na-niya. Iyan-na ang-nagdesisyon-na-siyaw-na-siya.

Iyon ba yung-career-na-may-Parkinson's-disease-na-raw-si-Manny?

Ha, wala.

Nanakot ka ba na-since-wala-na-ang-boxing, paano-na-ang-future-ninyo? At-paano-ka-na-ba?

Sasabi-na-kasi, as-ponce-na-ako. Kayo-lasabi-may-mapuntan-sa-kanya. Minsan-na-pano-in-mga-asawa.

Iisa ang pinakaproblema-mapakasama-mo?

Nagsasalita naman-ako-kapag-nakikita-kong-mali siya. Aysiya ng-gawaan at-sako-sayokong-makita-na-mga-mali-ko-na-dapat-kong-ayusin. Kapag-sapa-sabi-ko-kanya-yoko-mina. mag-chose-ka.

While-kang-caught-in-the-act?

Text-lang.

Tapos-kanagalit-ka?

Minsan-po-mga-umiyak-na-TV. Tinatanan-lang-ako-paano-magmura, may-nagtatae-sa-akin. Sabi-ganito-i-care-mo, tapos-hinigan-yung-number. Sabi-ko-ay-ka-mga-...Meron-din-akong-lang-pinamimiss, pero-nakakainis-yaon-kasi-Nokia, lumapas-na. Sinisisi-siya.

Sino-ang-nagsi-sisihin-kung-ganoon-mangyaring?

Ako-siyempre. Minsan-kasi-siya, kapag-may-pera, ang-daming-inisip. Sabi-ko-ako-na-lang-magsi-support-sa-dapat-gastos. Dito-nagsisi, Instrasmin-na-siya. Madami-siyang-negosyo.

Siya-ba-yung-tipo-ng-asawa-na-kapag-kumita-lalamunga-na-asawa?

Hindi-lahat. Siyempre-gusto-ko-lumaki-may-pera-siya. Kailangan-may-income-ang-mga-kasi. Wag-lasiba-lang-na-asawa.

May-tawa-kasi-nang-mga-kasi?

Meron.

Okay-lang-na-magsasabong-siya, magsa-casino?

Hindi-ko-kasi-siya-napigilan. Minsan-may-mga-barkadas, "Sabi-ko, pinoy-tayo-doon." Hindi-ko-alam-na-nagsabong-pala. Salaula-mon-ko-na-lang-nalalo-na.

Hindi-ma-mali-ilirak-yung-pangganitan-niya-na-na-ilk-siya?

Hindi. Siguro-po-ito-ang-isa-sa-nominating-pero. Hindi-ko-kapag-nanonood-ng-boksing-ng-mga-kasi. Kaya-madali-po-kung-ano-ang-gagawin-niya-sa-susunod-na-laban. Kasi-kung-nanonood-ka-ng-boksing-ng-mga-kasi, kailangan-i-note-mo-ganyan-ganyan. Pero-kapag-may-pera-na-wala-na-ako-doon.

Mahaki-ang-kita, pero-mahaki-din-ang-gastos?

Mahaki-na-ang-gastos!

Ano-ang-pinakamahalaking-**sakuna-kay-Manny?**

(Laughter) Hindi-ko-gusting-sagot, mas-madaki-yung-sabi-kasi-ganoon-sa-gamot. Kapag-may-budget-lang. Kapag-hindi-di-ako-ng-diamond, kalingan-may-certificate-para-mahaki-ang-value.

Ito-tanong-nasch-ko, bangay-niya-noong-birthday-ko. Sabi-ko, Peace-offering-niya-pero.

Anong-gusto-niyang-mali?

Noong-movie-na-"Bank-ng-Hunandoy," magsisi-kasi, kapag-nag-sosway. Kasi-kapag-na-siyang-kay-sosway. Walang-tawag-ka. pag-Umaswaggie-ako-kapag-ka-ma-magpapasok. Sila-tinatawagan-ko-na, "Bakit-may-ka-akong-nakikita-sa-monitor?" Minsan, nasa-ano-na-ako-kasi.

Anu-ang-ginagawa-mo-sanghihintay?

Anyway-pero-Minsan-may-nag-aaksik-ng-kape.

Si-Manny-hindi-marunong-humindi. Pinagsasabihan-ako?

Pinagsasabihan-ko, pero-pero-na-kaya-ko.

Marami-na-kasong-investments?

Time-deposit, si-sabi-nga-building-kasi-sa-Fontana. Dito-sa-Manila, condo, bahay-Ang-bahay-nasabi-kasi-ko. Sabi-ko-dito-"dito-si-sabi-sa-Laguna.

Ano-yung-bahay-niyan-10-years-ago?

Super-mahirap, na-masasa-din-na-may-makaraan. Bisong-nagpakasal-kami, nanigil-ka-ako-nagpapa-check-up-ako-sa-Philippine-General-Hospital. Sinong-sana-kami-sa-bahay-kasama-nung-nanay-at-mga-kapatid, kasama-labas. So-nung-nanganak-ako-dito, ganoon-pa-din. Hindi-nga-kami-nakakabili-ng-crib-para-sa-baby-ko. Sabi-ko-sa-sarili-ko, "Kapag-pumapasok-ako-ng-gym-ko, ako-nagbabayad-ng-kuryente-namin-ng-kapatid-niya. Kaya-napilit-yung-isang-araw-niya-nung-nagpakasal-kami-agad. Real-baka-bisyo-ko-yan-sila-nandoon-pero-kasi-nag-asawa-na.

Nakakatawad-ka-na-ng-utang? (Laughter)

Bayad-na-kasi-na. (Laughter)

Sino-ang-napiko-dicide-kung-anon-mangi-invest?

PH, ALEX Bonnin with DBP consultant Ari Quilat, Labaci Pol de Jesus, Consul General Jaime Lucila, DBP chair Patricia Sto. Tomas and Gina Lolilo with San Lorenzo Ruiz after Mass at St. Augustine Church in Macao

San Lorenzo Ruiz statue enthroned in Macau

WITH CONSUL GENERAL JAIME Lolilo and Labor attaché Leopoldo de Jesus carrying the statue of San Lorenzo Ruiz in the procession to the altar, the Pinoy voices sang the entrance hymn. Their voices rose up the halls of the 18th-century St. Augustine Church in Macau. Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) sang with them.

It was a joyous welcome for San Lorenzo Ruiz, patron saint of OFWs and Filipino migrants and powerful intercessor.

Fr Alex Bunnin, rector of Our Lady of the Trinity (OOLT), who celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass that morning, would later bring the statue to the Catholic Pastoral Center in Rua de Francisco Antonio where Mission are said everyday at 7:30 p.m. This is where San Lorenzo Ruiz will be enthroned.

Pancho Ducusin, patron saint of the life of San Lorenzo Ruiz will hang in the center's office. Helping fr. Bunnin are other DOLT priests, Fr Brian Balido and Fr Jon Tagaytay.

Joyous celebration

We attended the blessing of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Visita on Aug. 16, sharing the moment with the Legion of Mary who arranged flowers. The legionaries served as lectors and communicators.

Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) chair Patricia Sto. Tomas and DBP consultant Ariel Quilat were also present. They came two days before to sign a contract with E2BC Macau to provide services for OFWs.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

Making OFWs happy

In a treat to OFWs, the Power voice held a concert at the Salesianos Church. Consul General Lolilo and wife Gina stayed throughout the event, then moved to Macau Cathedral to do another concert before the 6 p.m. Mass where they also sang.

Organist and director Antonio Manalo told me and Sonia Andeng that they were very happy to have been given the chance to make the OFWs happy with their singing.

In bringing Powervoice to Macau, Aurora Lees, president of SM Lanc Medical Center, said: "It was sweet to bring the OFWs closer to the Lord."

Paco fiesta

Ati Rhian Ye introduced me to the devotion to "Santo Sepulcro." San Fernando de Dilao Parish in Paco will mark the feast day today with a 7 a.m. concelebrated Mass to be officiated by Bishop Broderick Pabillo.

Msgr. Domingo Cubio is the parish priest. Aida Almoranto is pastoral council president.

Joint birthdays

Cory Quirino will entertain her birthday on Aug. 26, 12 noon, with other Bonarian numbing their birthdays on the same day at the Trinity sa Don Bosco complex in San Jose Village on Dapeto Road.

Instead of gifts, please give donations to Baby sa Don Bosco. RSVP call Fr Nonoy Dungallen at 775-0400.

MyVote.MyTurn.

HOW I WILL DECIDE

The Inquirer keeps me informed. The 2010 election is really about _____ (KEY TOPIC).

Our next president needs to be someone capable of _____ (CHARACTER TRAIT) like _____ (POLITICAL HERO), and not capable of _____ (POLITICAL SCANDAL).

No one knows for sure what will happen. But I will make my vote happen.

NAME
ADDRESS
E-MAIL OR TEL. NO.
GENDER AGE

Fill out. Clip. **Send** to **2010elections@inquirer.com.ph. Fax** to **897 4811.** Or send **SMS**. Type *2010 Name Address Key Topic Character Trait Political Hero Political Scandal* and send to **0918 898 5868.**

INQUIRER

Monthly, our Research Department will collate the results which will be printed in the Inquirer. Entries filled with good-thinking/reality check/innovative approach/ provocative opinion will receive surprise prizes.

Information and Immunity, Best Defense Against Swine Flu.

With over 10,000 infected people and 80 deaths all over the world, including the Philippines, the recent Swine flu or Influenza A(H1N1) scare has brought to light the growing concern of health and safety issues that may be beyond our control. In the past five years, several health issues have caught the world unaware and unprepared. SARS, bird flu and now, Influenza A(H1N1); people are left scared and confused—what's the next killer epidemic? Can we stop it? How will we survive it?

Swine Flu

The Swine flu virus is a new flu virus that has caused death and infections to thousands of people all over the world. It was called swine flu since it was discovered that genes in this virus are very similar to the virus genes affecting pigs. However, it was later discovered that it is different from the usual swine virus as it has genes similar to the avian and human flu viruses.

The swine flu virus acts similarly to the seasonal flu virus in that, the virus' hemagglutinin and neuraminidase proteins allow it to infect and damage cells. The damaged cells in turn signal the immune system that something is wrong. The immune system reacts by producing molecules called cytokines and recruit the body's defense system called T-cells to kill the virus. It is in this strategic defense that the immune system signals the body to raise its temperature to help fight off the infection, thus causing a fever. However, in some cases, the body overreacts, raising the body's temperature drastically and the T-cells attacking even healthy cells and organs—causing the body to self-destruct.

Like most flu viruses, the swine flu virus is easily spread through coughing and sneezing. Infection can also occur when one touches an object or person with the virus and then touching one's nose or mouth.

Symptoms

One difficulty with the swine flu virus is that its infection symptoms are very much similar to the seasonal flu, such as having fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, joint and body pains, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, vomiting and even diarrhea. Only laboratory testing can tell the difference between the swine flu virus and the seasonal virus. It is thus important to see a health professional once flu-like symptoms are felt.

World health authorities such as The World Health Organization and The Center for Disease Control have advised that finding a cure for the current viral outbreak may be months or even years away. It is in this light that more and more people see the importance of prevention, and more importantly, having a strong immune system, in the fight against these super-viruses.

Prevention

Like with most illnesses, prevention and a strong immune system are key to survival. In the case of the swine flu virus, the following measures must be observed to avoid infection:

- avoid touching one's mouth and nose
- regularly wash hands with soap and water for at least 30 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, alcohol-based sanitizers may be used
- avoid close contact with people
- avoid crowded places
- improve ventilation in your space
- eat immunity-building foods
- get enough sleep and rest

A Strong Immune System

Another way of fighting the virus is by strengthening the body's immune system. More than creative medicines, a strong immune system stops infection from the very moment a virus attacks. And in the case of new strains of viruses, wherein no cure has yet been developed like the swine flu, the immune system is the best and only defense.

Once foreign and infectious elements enter the body, the immune system works by immediately attacking and preventing these elements from doing damage to the body. Certain cells in the body are tasked to defend the body from these damaging elements. Like the rest of the cells in the body...they can only work optimally if they themselves are strong and healthy. It is therefore important that the body and consequently, the immune system is well-taken cared of by subscribing to a healthy lifestyle, eating a sensible diet and staying active.

In strengthening the immune system, certain vitamins and minerals that are known to be immunity boosters, can be taken as supplements to one's diet. One such immunity strengthener is Virgin Coconut Oil.

The world today is on a health war; with new, stronger, deadlier viruses and bacteria ready to attack the human race. The best defense is to be vigilant and be informed about ways to protect ourselves, as well as keeping our bodies healthy with a strong immune system to easily combat whatever disease that comes our way.

TheraHerb VCO, your reliable partner in boosting immunity.

While virgin coconut oil or VCO is a highly-regarded health supplement, it must be stressed that not all virgin coconut oils in the market are the same. One must choose a brand of virgin coconut oil that is purely and safely processed to harness its maximum efficacy. One such brand is TheraHerb VCO.

TheraHerb VCO is certified by IPAO and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 9001: 2000) for meeting the standards set for clean and safe manufacturing processes. TheraHerb VCO has the quality seal that ensures consumers of its high quality and efficacy.

In addition to its immune-boosting benefits, Virgin Coconut Oil is also a recognized healthy heart supplement. It has been proven to help lower the body's bad cholesterol while increasing good cholesterol levels.

TheraHerb VCO can be taken directly or it can also be mixed with your favorite food and drinks. TheraHerb VCO is also available in different flavors to make it more delightful.

NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS

SM MALL OF ASIA
Fun-filled Activities for Kids!

SM Mall of Asia, the country's leading lifestyle destination, is home to many attractions and activities that children will definitely love. Toy Stores, in-mall edutainment centers, and regular kid-friendly events make MOA a fun place to be for little girls and boys.

Up, Up, and Away with Disney and Pixar

Kids of all ages are invited to join MOA in welcoming Up, the newest animated movie from Disney and Pixar. Carl, a crabby old man; Russell, a Wilderness Explorer; and Dug, a talking golden retriever are unlikely partners in the greatest adventure of their lives as Carl's balloon-suspended flying house takes them to the picturesque Paradise Falls.

Hilarious chaos ensues as the group finds a tall colorful bird which Russell names Kevin. The next thing they know, they're being chased by a vicious pack of dogs and capture fighters around this weird place that Carl had wished to visit all his life. Up is a charming tale of adventure, exploration, and unlikely friendship in unexpected circumstances from the creators of Toy Story, Cars, Monsters Inc., Finding Nemo, and WALL-E.

At every visit to MOA, kids can readily expect an exciting day of fun-waiting for them. Bring the whole family over to enjoy the quality fun and wholesome entertainment offered by the only mall by the scenic Manila Bay. MOA has it all for you—no other mall even comes close!

Say Hello to Hi5 in Manila

September 5, 2009

Meet and greet Tey, Casey, Tim, Lauren, and Steve as the Hi5 crew visits SM Mall of Asia! September 5 will surely be a fun-filled day as Hi5 interacts with their young fans through photo sessions, autograph signing, and delightful musical performances. Hi5 in Manila is brought to you by Fastfood Inc.

Looney Tunes Active

Looney Tunes Active Fun Run
August 30 | Music Hall

Kids, get on your feet! Sprint with your parents and Looney Tunes in a Fun Run at SM Mall of Asia this August 30. The Fun Run is a culminating event for the successful school toys in which the Looney Tunes gang encourages kids to engage in physical activities for healthier minds and bodies. To join the run, register now at www.looneytunesactive.kidsuniverse.com.ph.

Assembly	3 AM
3K Run	6 AM
3K Run	7 AM

SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE!

KIDS universe

Opening Soon!

SM Mall of Asia, the country's premier destination mall, takes the family mall experience to new kid-friendly levels with Kids Universe. Your kids are sure to have fun exploring the 8-story Cosmic Dare and the colorful outer space-themed areas. Watch out for this new exciting addition to MOA!

NOW SHOWING IN SM CINEMAS

Up Up and Away at MOA

August 23 | 10 AM – 10 PM

Relive the excitement and laughter of Up with fun-filled activities and games!

- **Blow Me Away**
  Help your favorite Up character win the Blow Me Away race—propel them by blowing them forward!
- **Up Balloon Twisting**
  Watch as a talented balloon twister creates fun and amazing shapes out of regular balloons.
- **Russell's Giant Backpack**
  Get a chance to win a giant backpack filled with toys and other exciting goodies!
- **Carl's House**
  Have your pictures taken in an actual-sized replica of Carl Fredricksen's balloon-suspended flying house.
- **Up Kiddie Games**
  Exciting prizes await winners in the picnic games organized just for the little ones.
- **Up Balloon Dive**
  Dive into a sea of balloons and hunt exciting treats and goodies!

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INSIDE

■ **Bruno's Pinoy boy toy makes waves in LA** OnlyInHollywood /G1
■ **This other big actress had a girlfriend, too** Rushes /F2

MISS Philippines Bianca Manalo walks the runway in the evening gown segment of the 2009 Miss Universe Preliminary Competition. –

7 finalists in censors board writing tilt

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION Review and Classification Board announced on Wednesday the seven finalists who will compete for the 1st MTRCB Movie Manila Screenplay Awards.

The contest for full-length screenplays was launched in recognition Metro Manila college students to engage in writing scripts, and to give them an opportunity to have their works turned into a movie, said MTRCB chief Marissa Laguardia.

The seven finalists are Michelle Andrea del Rosario of De La Salle University, with "Hedgehog"; Patrick John Valencia, University of Santo Tomas, "Frayze"; Lingjea Mae Jore, University of the Philippines, "Tahhh"; Anne Margarita Teves, Far Eastern University, "Facing Fiesta"; Maica Erika Catalan, Technical Institute of the Philippines, "Agua"; Cybelle Shawn Pelonchale, University of the Philippines, "Game"; and Mark Ilyric Dizon, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, "Marian Boy".

The winner (P50,000, first prize; P20,000, second prize; and two special awards of P10,000 each) will be announced as part of the 1st MTRCB TV Awards ceremony on Sept. 4, 7 p.m., at Gateway Cinema 3 in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, as part of De La MTRCB TV Awards.

E-mail: marsat@inquirer.com.ph

RP bet lost 30 lb to realize a dream

By Kervin Adino

PAMELA BIANCA MANALO DEmonstrates that Filipinos would like very much indeed to have another Miss Universe winner.

The last Pinay to bring home the crown was Margie Moran in 1973 (the first was Gloria Diaz in 1969). Miriam Quiambao came close to victory as first runner-up in'99.

Determination

Manalo, a 22-year-old Philippine Airlines flight attendant, won us fo. cused on snagging the country's third Miss Universe title that she lost more than 30 pounds while preparing for the competition.

In an earlier interview, she told MANILA BULLETIN that when she signed up for Binibining Pilipinas, she tipped the scales at 132 lb. For the duration of the competition, she had only fruits, vegetables, fish and water in her diet. On fruits night she had slimmed down to 126 lb and won the title in Sentosa's second, aside from the Ms. Philippines-Universe winner, she was likewise proclaimed Miss Stateside, Miss Philippine Airlines and Readers' Choice. At present, she weighs 120 lb.

John Cuny, Manalo's physical trainer in Gold's Gym, said he designed a Pilates-based program for her when training began in April this year. He also concentrated on slimming her lower abdomen and put her on a strict no-carbohydrate diet.

Aside from that diet and exercise regimen, Manalo underwent a colonic treatment that burned fat in her abdomen. A video clip from her stay in Bogota, Colombia, showed Manalo getting syringe shots into her midsection a few days before her arrival in the Ba-

BY KEY TO

Oprah finds 2nd Pinay talent

By Rayan San Diego Jr.

NOW, IT'S TIME TO SING back.

Julia Khawa, the 13-year-old singing prodigy who was first featured in the "Search for the World's Smartest and Most Talented Kids" on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," has signed up as creative consultant for Disney, a school for the performance arts.

The granddaughter of two UP presidents join a prominent cast of. ceasers. Parental grandfather is former UP president Jose Abueva; while maternal grandmother is current UP president Emerlinda Roman.

Julia believes in the importance of starting kids early in the arts.

She herself began singing at family gatherings at age 3 and soon performed at 7.

"Some kids may want to perform but are scared. I'm here to encourage and inspire them to see that their dreams if they believe in them," she said.

JULIA Abueva

Julia has appeared in nine shows, released two singles in Singapore, and shared the stage with two of the country's "Nine Singers" bands... Lea Salonga and Monique Wilson.

She picked up quite a few

STORIES F2

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Setting a whole new standard in luxury development is the new Eastwood Mall, located right at the heart of Eastwood City. This little piece of heaven, in the center of the bustling metropolis, exemplifies shopping, dining, and entertainment at its finest. See the latest trends and go on a shopping expedition from the various top international and local fashion brands. Relish the aroma of freshly cooked culinary creations from the chef-driven restaurants dotting the Eastwood Mall Veranda. Touch wagas ow with its upscale interiors and serene ambiance. Experience service deluxe from its full concierge with butler service and a new parking facility with 3,000 parking slots. Forget all your worries behind as you relax and unwind while watching the nightly dancing fountain shows set amidst the soothing ambiance of the Eastwood Mall Open Park.

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Reader says another big actress h

By the Entertainment staff

REMEMBER Respected Actress who found a new companion in another woman?

An avid reader tried to guess. Bits identity and exited the name of another Acclaimed Actress.

Actually yes, AA was involved with Another Woman, but they're since broken up. AA is now seeing Ari's cousin, who's decidedly older (Still, Ari supposedly kept it within the family, a very sensible political tactic, ne'ma.

Against all odds

Aging Guy has found a New Lease on early Problem. Everyone in the family is against Jil, who's young enough to be Ari's grandchild.

ACs are, I pe, he has a not) pointedly issued a warning: "House don't bring your lover to family gatherings. I don't want my children to meet SL."

Phew. Boy sounded abused. ACs relatives also gave SL the cold shoulder.

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Phew. Boy sounded abused. ACs relatives also gave SL the cold shoulder.

'Working Girls' revisited

Filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes and Unitel are working on a new version of Mike Hanah's classic 1980s ensemble film "Working Girls."

Reyes aims to create not a "real sequel" by updating the characters famously played by Gina Pareño, Gemi Marilu, Rio Locsin and Maria Isabel Lopez. He hopes to gather the film's old cast members and add new characters as well. The title: "Working Girls 2010."

"It's in line with the film's silver anniversary," Reyes explained.

RUSHES SUNDAY

KC as singing-dancing OFW

The OFW movie musical lambasted by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Film Development Council of the Philippines has found a leading lady.

A source alleges that KC Concepcion is "SO pressed" confirmed to play the part. "She only needs to secure permission from her home studio, Star Cinema."

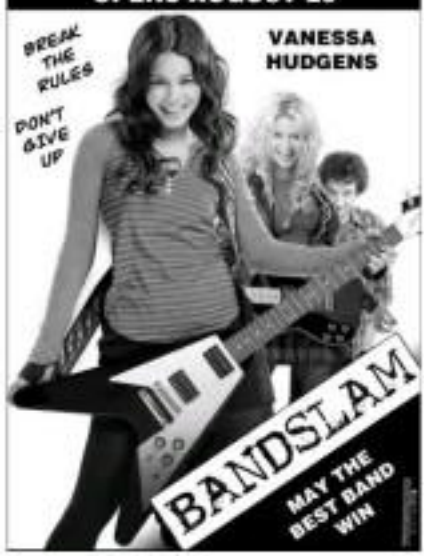
Also in the running for the movie is Lea Salonga.

Behind the feud

According to two different sources, the feud between two industry powerhouses, Star Cinema and Viva Films, was sparked when a cop of the storyline around 45 minutes late for a meeting.

Many friends of the two camps are trying to mend fences. But it seems that small fixes isn't working, but by tabloid reporter close claimed unlike business premises on

OPENS AUGUST 26



SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

AMERICAN CITY FOLKS

answer on page D1

...ad a girlfriend, too

EMON Gonzales

...ll say 'hi.'" (Answered?)

● Vicki, asked if she is married to some...one with blonded like:

"Papel na papel na ya ang yun ha ... We're just friends. Once in a while, I see him again. Ako naman, pag walang ako, walang ano ... ako lumuwa." (Does...ommend all?)

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HANGOVER

...RP bet lost 30 lb ...

...ense for the competi...
...h the preliminaries ...Sunday (Monday ...ming to Manila). ...arna surprised sports...ith a smile when ...ew she paraded in a ...ga-piece swimsuit with ...other 83 aspirants.

...g improvement

...Guerrero, on online ...emage branch also not ... a big improvement in ...mel's scrap skills. H...no-model Pilipina Dom...natural law is that de...t friend.

But Steven did not ...ne only her physical ar...ve and skills. The Ap...mpetition College adjunct ...ng graduate also took ...Carnegie personal ... development course ...e learned to do his own hair and makeup from Gerald's Salon.

Bianca hopes all that effort will help her attain the final runway.

Rule models

Bianca was elated when Gloria Diaz and Margie Moran joined with her for the photograph last March. "I look up to both of them ... Maybe having a picture taken with them meant something," she said.

Will Bianca, as her surname indicates, win the crown? Watch the coronation night on Star World tomorrow 9 a.m., also telecast on ABS-CBN at 9:30 a.m. The Expanding channel will have a Miss Universe primer in a special episode of "Buffy and Al" staffer, at 6:30 a.m.

...prah ...

...ages from Leo and Monique, ...s said.
...monique really materialize ...rades," she related. "When I ...nationals, I study up solo, too. ...search and Google it."
...ue she adore Israel, Julia de...ured. Leo on set: "amazing ...ers ... wants a powerful, brave ...rules. She told me I should ...on the job at hand, not to ...y about socializing unless I'm ...King."
...he's passing these lessons to ...Cruz in her new movie and is ...ing them with other child ...ompetitors at the Encore cultural. ...ther ill, not every teenager ...to sing on "Oprah."
...film fest YouTube rendition of ...n Project" was featured on the ...shows, friends and family in ...US and Singapore (where ...he boarded her with e-...ls and text messages.
...dia, however, has yet to reach ...mmy "Oprah" wins. "But my ...ady told me that Oprah said ...ch day girl ... she blew our ...s off!"
...he was invited to appear on ...Oprah" last November, but was ...in middle of preparations for ...ree solo concerts at the Es...nade in Singapore. "We still ...ing our fingers crossed ... re...ment invitation."
...he's also hoping to record her ...ur albums next year—"a mix ...broadway and pop tunes."

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GALLERIA
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC / AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
5 UP
6 UP (Digital 3D)
7 ONG BAK 2
8 1017
9 THE HANGOVER
10 LOL: LOVE ONLINE

ERMITA
1 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
2 UP
3 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
4 ONG BAK 2
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO
6 G.I. JOE
7 LOL: LOVE ONLINE

METRO EAST
1 ONG BAK 2
2 UP
3 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
4 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
5 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
6 G.I. JOE
7 AND I LOVE YOU SO
8 THE PROPOSAL

NOVALICHES
1 UP
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
4 LOL: LOVE ON LINE

PIONEER
1 UP
2 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE

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STA. ROSA
1 G.I. JOE
2 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
3 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
4 UP
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO

LIPA
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
3 ORPHAN
4 UP
5 G.I. JOE

DASMARIÑAS
1 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 G.I. JOE
4 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
5 UP

IMUS
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
3 G.I. JOE
4 UP
5 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC

STARMILLS
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 G.I. JOE
4 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
5 UP
6 PUBLIC ENEMIES

ANGELES
1 UP
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
4 G.I. JOE

TACLOBAN
1 G.I. JOE
2 UP
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO

BACOLOD
1 UP
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 G.I. JOE
4 ORPHAN
5 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
6 THE AMUSEMENT

ILOILO
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 LOL: LOVE ON LINE
4 MY SISTER'S KEEPER
5 ORPHAN
6 UP

GENERAL AUDIENCE
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'Iron Man' shirts for fans

"IRON MAN," THE BIG SCREEN ADAPTation of Marvel Comics' legendary superhero starring Robert Downey Jr., premieres on HBO on Aug. 30 at 9 p.m.

For a chance to win limited-edition merchandise from HBO Asia, viewers must answer the question, "When and on which channel will Iron Man on the movie?"

Participants may send their answers along with their full name and contact number on an e-mail with the subject "HBO Asia/Philippine Only Inquirer reader giveaway" to hboasiaevents@gmail.com.

The first 10 respondents with the correct answers will each win an "Iron Man" T-shirt. Contest ends Aug. 26.

Log on to www.hbomix.com for more information.

Treasure hunt

Celebrity kids and parents, including child star Ella Enchautegui and couple Tonton Gutierrez and Glydel Mercado with daughter Ayesha, joined cartoon character challengers in Cartoon Network's "Elephant's Terrible Terrific Treasure Hunt" on the SM Mall of Asia on Aug. 1.

The event promoted the spirit of adventure and friendship advocated by the kiddie cable channel's new show, "The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack."

The rendering adventure continues on Cartoon Network with episodes of the animated series airing Mondays at 7 p.m. The Flapjack games, log on to www.CartoonNetwork.com.ph.

Fashion reality series

The fashion reality series "Project Runway Philippines" returns for a second season this month every Wednesday at 10 p.m. on ETC.

"PROJECT Runway Philippines"

Thirteen new designers from different parts of the country compete for a chance to break into the Philippine fashion scene.

International model and host Venus Herrera returns to the show, together with fashion designer Jojo Llanes who will serve as mentor to the designers. Joining them for the second time around are supermodel Applo Alberto and fashion designer Raju Lunard as judges.

Animal cops

"Animal Cops Phoenix" follows the work of the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) investigators and emergency animal medical technicians, a passionate group of people whose mission is to protect the interests of animals.

The 14-strong field operations team specializes in emergency rescues.

The show airs on Animal Planet every Sunday at 11 p.m., starting Aug. 23, with encores on Wednesday at 4 a.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., Sunday at 1 a.m. and Monday at 5 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

From Bruno's boy toy to altar boy

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rubert V. Nepales

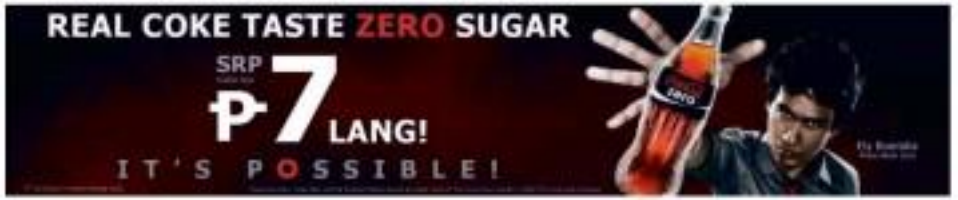
LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO-AMERICAN Clifford Batingale was Diesel, Bruno's boy toy in those unusually graphic scenes in the movie "Bruno." Now he is winning good reviews as Mark, one of the boy band members in an ongoing LA production of "Blue Boys."

Clifford, who dreams of appearing in the now-defunct Manila TV show "Penthouse" while growing up in the Philippines, is a pure delight in "Blue Boys." He sings, dances, acts—the audiences just love him. Kuya Germs would have been proud.

"Blue ..." which won the 2008 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best

FROM BRUNO'S 61

FILAM actor Clifford Batingale. Good reviews.



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"Experience the Beyonce mania!"
—Gary Goldstein, Los Angeles Times

glorietta GREENBELT

From Bruno's . . .

from page G1

Off Broadway. Musical and the 2006 and 2007 Broadway/current audience favorite musical, is the story of five small town boys — aptly named Mark, Matthew, Luke, Alvin, Jason and Juan...trying to save the world one screaming fan at a time. But when the "Save" performs in New Hollywood, will they be able to stay "heavenly"?

LA Times raved: "Celebration: The show's current production is an enjoyable three-hour affair, featuring a hilarious and source-worthy cast that's bursting with charisma... The cast, under the direction of Patrick Pearson, performs the show's 13 numbers with just the right combination of magnificent athleticism and wishful mixed innuendo."

Backstage.com praised the entire cast, citing Clifford as "a charmer as the closeted Mark, a slightly sad and sour Rodriguez in love with Matthew." Clifford's big numbers, "Epiphany" and his ballad inamies as Matthew's (Jason Bradley) innocent partners (cousin) Juan are among the crowd pleasers. "Blue..." which is playing at the Celebration Theatre in West Hollywood, has been extended until Aug. 30. For more information, visit www.celebrity-theatre.com.

Below are excerpts from our interview with Clifford, who was raised in Mira Corona, an LA suburb noted for its big Filipino population.

'I was very hesitant at first to watch myself in the movie'

Tell us how you watched "Bruno" for the first time. How did you react?

I was very hesitant to go to a theater to watch the movie for a while. I was kind of scared to be with a room of people watching me on the big screen, to be quite honest. So I waited for two weeks to watch the days thing. I went with two friends, drained very sexually. We sat for a while without anyone else in the theater.

Then the minutes before it started, the theater literally was packed with people. But my friends were very supportive. They reassured me by saying that I was going to be OK and that people wouldn't recognize me. Most people didn't, until I stood still by myself and people started to come at me and then took a second look. I took it upon myself to walk every time, every time.

How did your parents and family react to your scenes?

My youngest sister invited me in the middle of the night to tell me that my parents went out on a date to watch the movie. I

NEXT BRUNO'S G3

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From Bruno's...

From page G1

was so scared about how they would react, But in the end my parents laughed and praised me at several Filipino parties, saying that my stories were very cute and disarming.Iwas so happy that you have to see them. They were very proud.

How did you lead the indie?

I auditioned and had great chemistry

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TODAY • ARANETA COLISEUM

From Bruno's boy toy to altar boy

From page E1

with Stalin. How we appeared next to each other sealed the deal.

And I guess you know right away that the scenes would be sexually graphic?

The role required reading which was brought to my attention by

ROBERT Arevigura, John Wesley Stewart, Jesse Bradley, Kelly Rice and Clifford Balingsit are Celebration Theatre's "Silver Boys."

being surrounded by extremely talented professional people every so handy I don't think about it when I'm in character, so even as I break characters, that's where my work suffers.

You sing, dance and act—and what else? How did growing up in a Filipino family in West Covina lead to where you are now?

I like write comedy sketches, screenplays and plays. I choreograph, play a variety of sports, write songs, and read music. I cook—I can make mmmmm cakes!

I grew up with music. My grandmother sang opera and taught me how to sing when I was 3. I sang in the church choir with her. My dad sang and played the guitar, my aunt sang and danced as well. What I loved to do the most was act. I used to watch "That's Entertainment" in the Philippines and remembered, "How the heck do I get in that show?"

I started to take professional opera lessons when I was in middle school. In high school, I was heavily involved in the theater, choir, choir, opera, academic body and leadership programs... After high school, I took more acting lessons and enrolled at the American Musical & Dramatic Academy.

Living in West Covina was great. We were the average Filipino family in a house with 20 people. We actually lived in several of the surrounding cities but West Covina was the most memorable. There's a great Filipino community there, plenty of support and people of the same culture. All trying to live the "American Dream" is usually taught me how to survive.

How does it feel to be the only Asian and the most petite Hot Boy? And how do you try to overcome the race factor when you audition for other roles?

I'm very much used to being the only Filipino in a cast, but being the most petite...I've been that all my life so it's like breathing... I don't see too many actors that look like me, and competing with one another is just another challenge an actor faces. My agent and management help push me for roles that are casually working Caucasian actors. Fortunately, I am perceived to be able to play many other ethnic characters. I see it as a positive sign for Filipinos and Asians alike. All we need is one person to break that barrier. I'm given a chance each time I set foot in an audition so for that persons, I celebrate that.

What have been the most embarrassing and most memorable moments during the show's run so far?

The most amusing so far was when I sang "Epiphany" and my "Catholic Catholic" with a capital T" when I meant to say capital C. The most memorable would be my line discrepancy in "We Are the Altar Boys." I said, "God put Jesus down in hell..." instead of "God put satanic down in hell" cause they did not impress...

Have you an affair boy? How does the role resonate with you, especially with your Filipino upbringing?

I was raised as Catholic but no, I was never an altar boy. As far as resonance ... there is more value than being Catholic. It's too Mark; I just play him. I'm sure there is some essence in my persona that helped me receive this role, but believable, that, given training and research are involved in the process.

Talk about your big number in the show. What are your other favorite numbers in the show?

"Epiphany" is a huge number. I didn't know how I was going to approach a "coming out" song. So I broke it down in three sections. The first section was about reaching out to others who otherwise feel neglected and ashamed. Telling the audience that it is OK to be who you are. The second section of the song is about how other schools in our society is acceptable behavior. The middle section connects Mark and the audience as one. Acknowledging the fact that people in all walks of life, however extreme the differences or similars, are alike. We are taught how to be perfect citizens of the world and only one model fits, but this part of the song aims to break that. The last part of the song is about Mark accepting all of who he is without hesitation, because at the end of it all, he is proud.

Can you talk about the highlights of what you consider your most significant performances to date, including Simba in "The Lion King Concert"?

> 'In West Covina, we were the average Filipino family – 20 people in the house'

I really loved playing "Simba" in "The Lion King Concert." I was honored to be part of such a great ensemble that praised our he ray talent and not concentrate on my ordinary background. Originating the role of Jack Scott in the first staged play of "High School Musical" was fun and challenging. I also played Jack in "Into the Woods," which was my first time. I know that my skin color, ethnic background and stature had nothing to do with why I got cast. That made the rest realize how much it meant to me to break the ethnically closed casting. To be allowed to play roles that were predominantly played as Caucasians is a triumph for anyone who is considered ethnic.

You mentioned to us that some people suggested that you also try your luck in the Philippines. Your thoughts?

I deeply respect the line talents in the Philippines, but I want to give myself a full opportunity here first. I've been given a great chance to make a difference here and so many connections have been made that right now it would not be such a wise business choice. That is not to say that in the future, I would not do guest appearances on Filipino projects. I am too proud of my Pinoy brothers and sisters that I cannot turn my back on great talents who want to work with me. I'm open with them. There are many great Filipino talents whom I look up to.

What's next?

I am ready to take over the LA screens and the world. I want to make considerable contributions to the American screen and also help benefit other bright Filipino actors who want a chance to make a difference in this industry. I am currently being offered scripts and projects and now it's just picking the next project that will be right for me.

E-mail the columnist at rempulse_2000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Pinoy Report," at http://blog.inquirer.net/rapsutport.